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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
Marriott Downtown, Anchorage

ALASKA HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION
4300 BONIFACE PARKWAY
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

October 12, 2016

ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
PUBLIC MEETING 10/12/16



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ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
PUBLIC MEETING 10/12/16



P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record - 1:30 p.m.)

BUTCHER: All right. I'd like to call to order the Alaska Council on the Homeless. New members start on my right. I'm Bryan Butcher (Court reporter's notes).

KUIPER: Good afternoon. I'm David Kuiper. I'm a public member of the Council and I am the associate director with Christian Health Associates.

PEARSON: Hi, everyone, good afternoon. I'm Suzi Pearson. I'm also a public member and I work at Abused Women's Aid and Crises, a Domestic Violence Agency here in Anchorage.

JESSEE: Jeff Jessee, I'm the CEO of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

BURNS: My name is Randall Burns. I'm the Director of the Division of Behavior Health. I'm here as the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services designee.

WILLIAMS: Hi, I'm Dean Williams. I'm the Commissioner of Department of Corrections.

HANZAWA: I'm Allison Hanzawa. I'm here as the designee of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety.

COLLINS: And I'm Carrie Collins with Alaska Housing. I'm Staff to the Council.

BUTCHER: Okay. And on the phone. Colleen? I think on the

1 phone we have Colleen Dushkin.

2 DUSHKIN: Good afternoon everybody. This is Colleen Dushkin
3 and I'm with the Association of Alaska Housing
4 Authorities. Thank you for having me on line.

5 BUTCHER: Thank you, Colleen.

6 Welcome everybody attending today. Before we get
7 into the agenda I'd like to say a few things.

8 The first thing I would like to do is, I don't
9 know if Elizabeth Schultz is in the -- oh, yes, she
10 is, but I just wanted to thank the Governor for the
11 focus that he has had on the issue of homelessness,
12 as well as the larger issue of affordable housing,
13 senior housing, some of the many areas of real
14 concern in our State.

15 Many of you attended the Governor's Housing Summit
16 earlier this year in January and a lot of what we're
17 working on in the Council and a lot of what the
18 summit is -- it had a separate breakout track for
19 homelessness, but are much in the same.

20 We've had a lot of positive developments from a
21 funding perspective over the last year that I just
22 wanted to touch on at the beginning to make sure
23 everybody was aware of them.

24 One is the creation of a National Housing Trust
25 which is nationally -- will be distributing, at least

1 for this first year, whether it continues on we don't
2 yet know, money to all the states.

3 We are looking at Alaska receiving \$3 million.
4 And there are pretty strict sideboards on how the
5 funds can be used, but generally the focus is on
6 homelessness or help for the very, very low income
7 and that's a positive.

8 We've seen more -- and we'll touch on this also a
9 little later today, more Veterans' housing vouchers
10 through the VASH Program and 24 additional we got
11 earlier this year.

12 And that is really with kudos to the Public
13 Housing folks of Alaska Housing, as well as the
14 Veterans' Administration because when states work
15 better together and have a higher rate of vouchers
16 used in their state, they actually benefit by getting
17 vouchers from states that haven't had nearly the
18 success rate.

19 So a high success rate in Alaska has seen the last
20 few years us getting more vouchers. And we certainly
21 could use them, so the more vouchers we get, the
22 better.

23 We've also seen Medicaid expansion and that's
24 another area that we're looking into potentially
25 seeing what value it can bring in the areas of

1 housing.

2 And lastly, I wanted to point out that a few weeks
3 back Anchorage Economic Development Corporation had a
4 Live, Work, Play meeting. Carol Gore from Cook Inlet
5 Housing invited a group of panelists, Paul Kealey who
6 is the Chief Operating Officer for the National Low
7 Income Housing Coalition, Frank Lange, the Director
8 of Housing for the Saint Nick's Alliance out of New
9 York and Dana Totman president and CEO of Avesta
10 Housing in Maine.

11 And if you're interested in their -- if you
12 weren't able to attend and you're interested in their
13 presentation, please, contact Carrie Collins and
14 we'll make sure you get copies, but in particular
15 Dana Totman out of Maine had a -- they do a lot of
16 different housing and much of it is Housing First and
17 they had phenomenal results of what they've been able
18 to achieve and reductions that they had seen across
19 the board as a result of the Housing First supportive
20 housing project in Maine.

21 And so, once again, if you'd like to get some
22 power points or some background or some links on
23 that, please, contact Carrie and we'll be happy to
24 get 'em to you.

25 That being said, let's move on to Public Comments.

1 COLLINS: There's a few people that signed up to give public
2 comments. If you could just come up here to the
3 microphones and provide your comments.

4 And then I know there's a couple people that
5 indicated on the sheet, on the sign-in sheet and if
6 not feel free to come up after those individuals.

7 HOUSLER: My name is Agnus Housler (ph). I'm from the city
8 of Russian Mission. It's a small, rural village,
9 about 320 people. You'll have to forgive me I'm
10 nervous and I'm going to speak from my own personal
11 experience pertaining to homelessness.

12 When a prisoner is released from being
13 incarcerated based on conditions, certain conditions,
14 like, you must find a job or a home and if you have
15 children you must take them back and be responsible,
16 remain sober.

17 Often the parole officers don't follow-up on this
18 sort of thing due to State budget cuts or whatever
19 reasons.

20 Therefore, most of our people will always come
21 back home to us and we live in multi-generational
22 families that are parents, grandparents and people
23 living in most likely two bedroom housing and they're
24 overcrowded in rooms and small. We're not given a
25 choice because we're not going to turn our own family

1 away because they have nowhere else to go.

2 When they're being released, depending on their
3 type of crime that they commit they have certain
4 restrictions they have to follow when they move back
5 home with us. We're also being, kind of, forced to
6 follow those rules because some of them can't have
7 weapons or use alcohol or drugs. Therefore, we're
8 being told in our homes that we must get rid of all
9 the weapons or do not use alcohol or drugs in our own
10 homes.

11 Out in the rural villages we depend on those
12 weapons to help us provide subsistence food that we
13 rely on. We depend on it for as our way of life.

14 Suddenly our children are confused because, first
15 of all, their parents are gone. They're
16 incarcerated. They have to come live with parents or
17 great grandparents and they're left alone and being
18 ignored, in my opinion.

19 And our home we -- just because we take 'em in,
20 the kids don't -- they're not as verbal and they
21 don't speak, but they show emotions, but we, as
22 adults most often don't understand their behavior.
23 Therefore, it causes stress in already multi-
24 generational people living in a home and it trickles
25 down to everyone else and which causes more conflict.

1 Sometimes added domestic violence because people
2 are angry in the home and, you know, it just throws
3 us -- our home off balance.

4 And these homes that the prisoners or the released
5 people come out to are often HUD homes because
6 they're -- that's all the funding we get at a local
7 level. And when we go out and apply for housing at a
8 local level our tribes -- ever since I can remember
9 people who go to jail depending on their crimes are
10 labeled already, felons or misdemeanors or whatever,
11 but they're often labeled and looked at in a
12 different way when they come back to the community,
13 so they're, kind of, separated as a whole, you know,
14 from our village, that also causes some disturbance
15 and hurts us.

16 We love our families. We're a tight knit family.
17 Excuse me. Are families are struggling because we
18 don't -- we're not -- we don't have resources like
19 you here in the urban areas do that we can go to and
20 say you must live here.

21 According to your conditions of release maybe you
22 need some alcohol or behavioral health treatment or
23 whatever, out in the rural areas we don't have that.
24 It's not easy to go 'cause, number one, we have no
25 real income. And the resources we do have are in

1 Bethel or Anchorage or wherever. It's best wherever
2 people think it's best we should go. It's not easy.

3 Some of us are -- you know, the people who are
4 being released back into the community or they come
5 home and live with us, there may be, like, three or
6 four families working and there are a couple of the
7 head of households, that those families will be
8 working at the school because that's the main place
9 we get our jobs or the city or the tribe, that's all
10 we have to go or the stores.

11 And when those people add up -- those bunch of
12 families add up their income and we apply for
13 Medicaid, those are all counted for income in our
14 household. For that one person to apply for
15 Medicaid, you're over income already. You know, we
16 can't get any services, no food stamps, no Medicaid.
17 And we have to rely on that one person's income for
18 the whole household depending on how many people that
19 we have.

20 Then in the schools, in my opinion, we neglect our
21 own children. When our -- often times the counselors
22 that we have in the village are the school counselors
23 that's they're there year around, but they don't
24 understand fully what's happening at home because no
25 one says.

1 You know, we've got these kids that are disruptive
2 in the school, but they don't say, well, my mom was
3 up drunk all night or (indiscernible) that's why I'm
4 tired. Who is going to say that. We're all
5 naturally shy and timid people. We're not going to
6 go out and say our grandparents, our parents are
7 drunk and -- no body wants to label their parents
8 like that or grandparents.

9 So these kids are (indiscernible) need to be
10 recognized. We have feelings. We don't want to be
11 ignored. Small things matter. Ask us how we're
12 doing on a daily basis, not once a week where we're
13 going to be referred to the counselor and that's it.

14 And then don't focus on that one troubled child or
15 person and not look at who is all living in the house
16 at the time, like I said, maybe two and three
17 families in the home. Just because all the children
18 are not acting out, just that one child doesn't mean
19 there's something happening in the other 20 people --
20 20 (ph) children that all together are living in the
21 home.

22 And often times out there we have single families,
23 single parents that, you know, they go to jail and
24 their children are left with the Uncles and Aunties
25 and grandmas and grandpas in the house and being

1 ignored because -- and they're -- automatically
2 someone takes them in, but they're feelings are
3 stuffed inside and repressed and they think because
4 they're quiet they're okay.

5 So today I'm asking whoever this message comes out
6 to, to think of us in the little villages because
7 that's where most of the problems (ph) are coming up
8 with alcohol and substance abuse. And we're just
9 losing too many already (indiscernible - voice
10 lowers) and a little late (ph). They're going to
11 grow up to be the next offenders in our system.
12 Thank you for hearing me.

13 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you very much, Agnus. Does anyone
14 have a question or a comment?

15 STEINACHER: Hi, my name is Sue Steinacher. I'm the very part
16 time housing coordinator for the Nome Emergency
17 Shelter Team or NEST. And I want to say that as much
18 as I speak out I'm nervous sitting up here and that
19 was one very brave woman who just came and shared
20 some real -- what we encounter a lot that doesn't
21 make it all the way to a setting like this, so I
22 really applaud her.

23 And I wanted to follow her because I live in Nome
24 which, first of all, a lot of people think Nome's a
25 white town. We are more than 60 percent Native and

1 we are the hub for 15 Native villages in the
2 surrounding area, so I'm really here to speak on
3 behalf of all of them.

4 And my concern for you is in how we identify and
5 define homelessness. There are enough -- and I
6 apologize to the people who have already heard me say
7 these things, but I'm going to say them again. There
8 are enough households in Anchorage that everybody
9 could take someone home and you wouldn't have a
10 homeless problem any more. That is what happens in
11 rural Alaska.

12 In Nome our homeless are all driven by alcohol and
13 yet we can't get an alcohol treatment program and yet
14 it's our number one problem. Other than that,
15 families are so severely overcrowded. We're -- I
16 mean, I think a multi-generational family is a
17 healthy thing until it is four families living
18 together under one roof. And there are certainly
19 circumstances of this where each family with their
20 kids gets a bedroom.

21 Another village I know that families are sleeping
22 in shifts. This is -- and in Nome we have families
23 easily doubled and tripled up. People farming their
24 kids out to other homes because they can't afford a
25 place or find a place where they can have their whole

1 family together.

2 So -- and she mentioned the problem with barrier
3 (ph) crime. If you have a person living in a
4 household with a barrier crime and people, again,
5 don't want to leave people out in the cold, that
6 household can now no longer be a foster home. We
7 already have a crisis with finding foster homes and
8 this just adds to it. More kids are sent out of
9 region because of it.

10 But when we have families this doubled and tripled
11 up, kids performance in school goes way down. They
12 are -- you know, there's a higher incidence of
13 domestic violence and child sexual abuse. There are
14 problems with chronic exposure to drug and alcohol
15 use. It's an unhealthy situation that is driving a
16 lot of the homeless problem that eventually tends to
17 make its way to your larger hubs.

18 And so -- but one, we have virtually no housing
19 stock in rural Alaska. The latest assessment for the
20 15 villages in the Bering Straits Region not
21 including Nome is that they need 460 more houses and
22 we know that isn't going to happen.

23 So, one, we have a housing stock problem. And the
24 problem is that it costs more to build because of
25 shipping than places will appraise for, therefore,

1 nobody is building and a lot of people are not
2 maintaining and we're seeing buildings just slowly
3 rotting away while we have people doubled and tripled
4 up.

5 So -- but what I would like this group to think
6 about and I've been asking the HMIS system this, the
7 University system this, is could we collectively,
8 even if it can't be counted with the Point in Time,
9 could we collectively come up with a strategy
10 together for a means of assessing the level of
11 overcrowding that is occurring in Bush Alaska, as
12 well as assessing the vulnerabilities that, that's
13 introducing into a culture, a community, a whole
14 region in this state. And is also, again, like I
15 say, driving what's happening with your programs in
16 the more urban areas.

17 So I just want you to understand the Point In Time
18 is a great tool for certain areas and it does not
19 work at all in many other areas where we obviously
20 have a housing crisis and a homelessness crisis.

21 So to that end, to continue to beat a dead horse,
22 I cannot wait under housing vouchers are made
23 available on a per capita basis in Alaska so that
24 many of us other communities could at least help one
25 or two families. Thank you very much.

1 BUTCHER: Thank you, Sue. Welcome.

2 CARLSON: Hello. My name is Kara Carlson and I'm the
3 interim coordinator of the Fairbanks Housing and
4 Homeless Coalition. And by interim coordinator I
5 mean volunteer coordinator. I was originally in a
6 paid position, but do to budget cuts to the agency
7 that was hosting that position wasn't able to
8 continue to do so and with the momentum we have going
9 right now I have felt it necessary to stay in my
10 current position until we're able to make some
11 changes.

12 I wanted to talk with you today about the emphasis
13 the State is putting on re-entry service which is
14 fantastic. It's much needed, but I would also
15 encourage you and the State to consider elevating
16 housing and housing crisis that our State and our
17 local communities, especially the balance of state is
18 facing regarding housing issues.

19 Currently I'm coming from a coalition that's not
20 funded. We have zero dollars for anything. And so
21 when it comes to doing things like the Point In Time
22 count, we don't really have the capacity to do that.
23 I don't have the capacity to organize that myself and
24 we have zero funding or incentive to, kind of, make
25 that happen. Yet, we still find a way to survive and

1 do that, but we don't have meaningful data as a
2 result.

3 And we don't have the ability to meet the needs,
4 say, of the re-entry coalition which is also -- which
5 is trying to implement services for returning
6 citizens in our community, but if those citizens
7 don't have housing which is the focus and the
8 expertise of the Homeless Coalition, then we're not
9 really doing our community any justice.

10 And so, you know, we've been talking about
11 collaborating and that's something that our two
12 coalitions are talking about doing, but my
13 understanding is, is there's some limitations in the
14 funding for a re-entry coalition to really do that in
15 a meaningful way and so regardless we're still trying
16 to not duplicate services, but housing continues to
17 be a huge priority for the State of Alaska and I
18 would like to see that elevated a little bit as far
19 as what the State is addressing and prioritizing.

20 And I'm not saying don't prioritize re-entry
21 because that's also needed, but there is some
22 significant overlap in those two services. Thank
23 you.

24 BUTCHER: Do we have any additional who have signed up,
25 Carrie?

1 COLLINS: No.

2 BUTCHER: Okay. All right. Thank you very much, we
3 appreciate that and we've taken notes on all of that.
4 Good -- very good points.

5 Next on the agenda we'd like an update from the
6 Alaska Coalition on Housing and Homelessness, Brian
7 Wilson. Is Brian here?

8 WILSON: Hey, everybody, thanks a lot. My name is Brian
9 Wilson. I'm the Executive Director of the Alaska
10 Coalition on Housing and Homelessness.

11 As I've seen a few of you that were here
12 yesterday, I'm going to try to keep my comments
13 relatively brief. I'm sure there's going to be light
14 applause behind me when I say that because I talked
15 for quite a bit yesterday, but I did want to say that
16 we really enjoy hosting the Governor's Council at our
17 annual conference every year. It's a great
18 opportunity for folks that normally can't make it to
19 your meetings because of our large geographic area to
20 see you in person and participate in public
21 communication, so it's a really exciting thing for
22 me.

23 So I just wanted to talk on a couple of notes of
24 what's new with the conference and the direction
25 we're moving towards right now. We just wrapped up

1 our COC annual funding program which we submitted our
2 combined application on September 14th. And what's
3 really exciting this year is we received two new
4 applications this year. So we received one from
5 Nome. The Nome Emergency Shelter Team and their
6 program actually landed in our Tier I
7 recommendations.

8 And then also we received another permanent
9 supportive housing project by No Limits in Fairbanks
10 and we recommended them for our bonus funding. So we
11 won't know the results of this until about a month or
12 two down the line, but we are excited to see that
13 those new programs are out there and that there's an
14 opportunity to add permanent supportive housing beds
15 in our balance of state.

16 So really where the Coalition is focusing on, kind
17 of, three areas over the next year and you're going
18 to hear a lot of communication from me on that. So
19 we're going to continue our great work and
20 partnership that we've had with the Institute for
21 Community Alliances to make improvements to our AK
22 HMIS data base.

23 At this time last year it was a completely
24 different story in terms of our data quality and our
25 data completeness and the number of users on our

1 systems. So we've had over a 50 percent increase in
2 the number of users over the last year thanks to the
3 great outreach that the Institute for Community
4 Alliance has done.

5 And then also we've improved our data completeness
6 from this time last year was 63 percent which is an F
7 grade in our book to 93 percent when we had to submit
8 our data this last summer, so that is a huge
9 improvement. We're expecting to see that carryover
10 to our overall COC score in the future, so it's
11 really exciting for us.

12 And on a side note with the Institute for
13 Community Alliance is we have renewed our annual
14 contract with them this last June. And because of
15 their great outstanding work and they're such an
16 asset to our organization statewide they will be
17 locating an office here in Anchorage and have just
18 made two hires of really bright young folks that are
19 willing to spend their time helping our agencies with
20 technical assistance on their AK HMIS systems,
21 ongoing training and they also have a travel stipend
22 in there.

23 And talking to Adam Smith who's, kind of, the
24 regional director for ICA, he intends for them to
25 have a visible presence in all four corners of that

1 State, so this is a really exciting time for us in
2 terms of the data world because I know there's been
3 some issues in the past and so we're putting those
4 behind us and really moving forward and seeing 2016
5 as a baseline year for our data going forward.

6 We're also making a big push for coordinated entry
7 statewide. So coordinated entry system, of course,
8 is where agencies in a geographic area all signed
9 data sharing agreements with each other and use a
10 common assessment tool for when they run into folks
11 who are in need of housing services which then
12 creates one sole data base of names, so basically a
13 vulnerability list per community.

14 So instead of each agency having three, four, 500
15 people on their waitlist that's duplicated agency by
16 agency and forcing clients to, kind of, shop around
17 for services, now everybody if they come into any
18 agency will be able to be included on a community
19 wide list.

20 And those agencies meet on a regular basis to
21 basically allow those who are in the most needed
22 services to access them from the top down. It's a
23 great way for us to track the successes and
24 challenges of our system. And so we'll be able to
25 actually see in greater detail where the needs are

1 statewide.

2 Anchorage just, so to speak, pressed the button on
3 their coordinated entry system in the last month or
4 two which I assume Carmen is going to talk about here
5 soon, but in terms of the balance of state Juneau is
6 anticipating to start their coordinated entry in
7 February, 2017. We're trying for that same goal with
8 Fairbanks.

9 The Mat-Su Valley is in the process of having
10 their conversations to begin coordinated entry and
11 they'll also intersect with the Anchorage community
12 as well because of their geographic locations, so
13 very exciting.

14 So -- but one byproduct that we're going to see
15 out of a coordinated entry system, I always say it's
16 not a silver bullet, we're going to have a greater
17 look at the severe shortage of supportive housing in
18 our balance of state. We'll have a better idea of
19 how many units, how many people that we're going to
20 need and where statewide, but we are really
21 supportive of any efforts to increase the capacity of
22 supportive housing statewide.

23 I know that we're going to be talking a lot about
24 our statewide strategic supportive housing plan and
25 how to move forward with that. The Coalition

1 supports the work that's being done on that and are
2 participating in a work group that's having those
3 discussions on how to move forward with that.

4 In addition, we participated in the Mental Health
5 Trust budget planning session a couple months ago and
6 I think that their -- that was an amazing process, by
7 the way. It was really transparent and really well
8 done. It provided us an opportunity to learn more
9 about their focus going forward and I think it's very
10 honorable to be focusing on re-entry.

11 Again, we believe that re-entry is a three legged
12 stool, you know, and you've got to look at services,
13 you've got to look at income and you definitely have
14 to look at housing. And so I think it's really
15 important for us to continue beating the drum that we
16 need to continue putting resources towards housing
17 when we're talking about re-entry.

18 There are some local efforts to incorporate
19 correctional institutions and jails with our
20 coordinated entry system to make sure that folks who
21 are exiting are on the by name community list to --
22 so they can access services, but, again, we do have a
23 severe shortage of supportive housing units for them
24 to go in (ph) and rapid re-housing units as Nan Roman
25 (ph) said yesterday in her plenary (ph) speech.

1 So we also have the Point in Time count coming up.
2 I know we heard a couple comments on it. It's always
3 one of those topics where folks are either big fans
4 of it or they have questions about it. It's
5 important to remember what the purpose of the Point
6 In Time count is. This year it is happening on
7 January 24th.

8 You know, it's a requirement that we have of HUD
9 to do every year and it's an effort to look at those
10 folks who are in the most need of housing. So we're
11 talking about unsheltered population or folks
12 accessing emergency shelters.

13 We had a great conversation yesterday with in a
14 meeting. I think Sue Steinacher raised the question,
15 you know, homelessness looks different in different
16 places of the State. We definitely understand that
17 and so those numbers aren't going to be
18 representative of necessarily the community need in
19 rural Alaska.

20 So we're looking into with the Institute of for
21 Community Alliances since they work with balance of
22 state, COCs all across the nation to identify ways
23 to, you know, look at and obtain data for double up
24 data for folks who are couch surfing or sharing
25 residences to an overcrowding amount and find a way

1 to really show the need of those different
2 communities. It's great to have Sue on our Board
3 now. She was just elected in. As well, we have Sam
4 Okakok from Barrow who I've been talking with for the
5 last couple of days on ways that we can help draw
6 (ph) a more accurate picture up there as well.

7 So we are -- now that we have an executive
8 director in place, we have a little bit more time to
9 invest in community planning, so -- as needed and so
10 I've been spending a significant amount of time
11 talking with folks from Kenai on how to ramp up their
12 efforts in their Point In Time count. And also,
13 Fairbanks I know that there is a concern about
14 resources available and that's definitely something
15 that the Board is going to address over the next --
16 at their next meeting at the end of the month.

17 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you very much, Brian. Do we have any
18 questions for Brian?

19 BURNS: I have one (ph).

20 BUTCHER: Yes, Randall.

21 BURNS: Do you -- on the coordinated entry system you
22 mentioned the -- does that end up becoming a
23 prioritized list then.....

24 WILSON: Yeah,.....

25 BURNS:by community?

1 WILSON: Yeah. So community by community they follow HUD's
2 recommended order of priority for housing and that's
3 pretty standard nationwide and that's what we're --
4 we're following that same prioritization statewide.

5 BURNS: Okay, thank you.

6 BUTCHER: Any other questions? Okay, thank you very much,
7 Brian.

8 WILSON: Thank you very much guys.

9 BUTCHER: Okay. Next I'd like to ask Carmen to come up for
10 an update on the Anchorage Coalition to End
11 Homelessness.

12 WENGER: Good afternoon. One of the major things I'm going
13 to be talking about today is the partnerships the
14 coalition is leveraging to make sure we're working
15 most efficiency and affectively in the community, so
16 the next item on your agenda is Nancy Burke. We're
17 going to compliment each others' presentations.

18 So a lot of my comments I'm going to try not to
19 repeat anything that Brian said, but we have similar
20 activity going on in Anchorage.

21 We did finalized our COC application. We
22 submitted on September 13th and this round we were
23 able to rank all projects that applied. We didn't
24 eliminate anyone in the ranking round. We have one
25 and a half renewal projects in Tier II and a bonus

1 project in Tier II, so we'll await the awards from
2 HUD to know what the finalized impact on the
3 community is, but overall we applied for a little
4 over \$3.1 million dollars in our application.

5 We also have been working to formalized our COC
6 process and make it more standardized and make sure
7 we're bringing our community application to better
8 meet all the requirements put forward by HUD.

9 We did this year formalized and finalized our
10 policies and procedures, as well as our written
11 standards so we do have that document in place.

12 And we worked to try to work across agencies. We
13 worked with the Municipality and with AHFC to make
14 sure they could be more community documents. They're
15 not something that we put a lot of effort and energy
16 into and they're only addressing one program. We're
17 trying to make sure that we have uniform community
18 standards, but are meeting the needs of as many
19 programs that receive funding in our community as
20 possible.

21 And to your point, Mr. Burns, to the question of
22 prioritization, we include prioritization criteria in
23 our written standards. And I will be talking about
24 coordinated entry in a minute, but we follow the HUD
25 Permanent Supportive Housing prioritization criteria,

1 but we also outlined prioritization criteria for our
2 individual sub-populations for single individuals,
3 for youth and for families for interventions that
4 fall below the permanent supportive housing
5 threshold.

6 We are fully engaged in the HMIS process. We have
7 -- I'm not going to go through the stats because we
8 fall under all of the information that Brian shared
9 with you, but we are moving forward with our data
10 sharing within Anchorage.

11 And that's going to be a game changer in a lot of
12 ways to how we're able to access and utilize
13 information, kind of, lowering the over-processing of
14 some of our clients that are seen at multiple
15 agencies, as well as with the changing definitions at
16 the Federal level of chronically homeless better able
17 to find appropriate documentation on our clients as
18 they move between service providers to find the best
19 fit.

20 Coordinated entry, we -- as Brian said, we flipped
21 the switch on single individuals who do have, kind
22 of, a three part system.

23 When we started the design period about -- a
24 design process about 14 months ago we decided that we
25 could best meet the needs of our citizens by having,

1 kind of, three parallel processes that it can be,
2 kind of, cross referred if necessary, but we're
3 trying to meet the needs of single individuals, of
4 families and of youth and because the services
5 available to those populations are distinct and the
6 way you access them are different, we have different
7 access points and flows for each of those.

8 So our single individuals was started on September
9 1st. We're, kind of, in a period of adjustment as
10 we, kind of, turn that on and some of the -- I'm sure
11 Nancy will touch on as well, we've had wonderful
12 collaboration and ongoing coordination with our
13 outreach groups spearheaded by Nancy and that's
14 somewhat starting to transition to the coalition, but
15 we have a group including public safety with the
16 Municipality, all of our outreach service providers
17 and we're starting to get buy-in from some of our
18 further partners and come together every Tuesday to
19 talk about that by name list.

20 For the families we are finalizing -- we just
21 finalized the, kind of, intake packet. And we're a
22 little bit behind the single individuals in
23 launching, but really with the standing up of the
24 Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Program and winter
25 coming we're going to really start putting that to

1 use soon.

2 And youth has had a wonderful planning process
3 take place. They were part of the overall design
4 process that the Coalition lead, but Covenant House
5 who is involved in that process wanted to get more
6 partners involved and we just went through a two day
7 planning process specifically for the youth piece of
8 coordinated entry and it's been a wonderful exercise
9 to bring nontraditional partners together.

10 We had a lot of people at the table that aren't
11 housing providers, but they offer those core services
12 that we know stabilize youth and allow them to stay
13 in housing. And so bringing them into our planning
14 process I think has been very valuable to make sure
15 that we have a successful system that meets all of
16 the needs of our transitionalized (ph) youth.

17 We're about to launch a new tracking mechanism for
18 progress on our Anchorage Community Plan to prevent
19 and end homelessness. (Indiscernible) presented to
20 this group in May that our plan had been accepted by
21 the Municipality and we did take great efforts to
22 keep it in line with this body's statewide plan and
23 the National Plan of Opening Doors.

24 So we will have a mechanism that allows us to
25 identify the work being done on each element of the

1 plan on a monthly basis and that is being reviewed by
2 a joint committee between the Municipality, the
3 Housing and Neighborhood Development Commission
4 Oversight Subcommittee on Homelessness that meets
5 monthly jointly with the Anchorage Coalition to End
6 Homelessness and so they'll be reviewing that and
7 identifying areas of need that aren't currently being
8 worked on by any specific groups in our community.

9 Looking forward we're excited to be in the design
10 process for an application for the Youth Homelessness
11 Demonstration Project. This is a project that's
12 being put out by HUD to identify 10 communities
13 across the nation that will be able to, kind of, set
14 the stage for their next goal of ending youth
15 homelessness.

16 There will be six awards to urban communities and
17 four awards to rural communities and we have the
18 designation that all Alaskan communities qualify as
19 rural, so we're looking forward to putting in a very
20 competitive application for that process.

21 And probably the biggest, kind of, over-arching
22 piece of our work has been our partnership with the
23 United Way and the Mayor's office and this has really
24 allowed, I think, each of those three entities to,
25 kind of, focus on what we're best on, but make sure

1 we're aligned and we're not duplicating efforts, so
2 we're trying to move forward together.

3 And so with that I will let Nancy present unless
4 you want to ask questions before we go on.

5 BUTCHER: Let's save it till the end.

6 BURKE: So, thank you for the time. And as Carmen said,
7 it is a wonderful thing to have United Way, the
8 Coalition and the Mayor really focusing on
9 Homelessness.

10 And as we talked about before when the Mayor came
11 into office, the information coming in from the
12 public, information coming from APD was that the
13 adult homelessness in Anchorage was becoming a
14 significant issue and frequently people were calling
15 and asking for assistance with that area.

16 So in conjunction with the Coalition as
17 coordinated entry, which was a pretty major planning
18 process was rolling forward, I offered to bring the
19 groups that were working together on adult
20 homelessness to initiate ideas and to see, you know,
21 what kinds of things we could do things we could do
22 to address that issue in the community.

23 And so the partnership was, as Carmen mentioned,
24 the Coalition, United Way. The Assembly joined us
25 fairly early. They committed a committee to

1 homeless and then made it a committee of the
2 whole, so we meet every third Wednesday from 11:00 to
3 12:30 with that committee to discuss homelessness.
4 And then, of course, all of the non-profit partners
5 that had been at the table and who joined us in the
6 efforts.

7 These were the goals, we really wanted to look at
8 data collection as we felt that the Point In Time
9 count was serving, you know, certainly the needs of
10 reporting to HUD and some of the community
11 information, but exact information about who wasn't
12 being counted in the Point In Time efforts was of
13 concern because of the feedback from neighborhoods
14 that those folks were probably staying out in camps
15 and, perhaps, not included in the work that was being
16 done around homelessness. So we helped increase the
17 outreach and the data collection in that area and I
18 have a few slides to go through that.

19 We wanted to try some different coordination and
20 projects, some things that maybe hadn't been done in
21 the community.

22 We wanted to also understand more about the needs
23 of the people and the Coalition was implementing the
24 vulnerability assessment, so we were able to get out
25 into the camps and conduct that assessment with

1 folks. I think there were about 200 vulnerability
2 assessments that had come in through this
3 coordination effort that was ongoing.

4 And then monitoring the needs and resources and
5 then, of course, addressing the question about how
6 will this be permanent and how will be do it. How
7 can we pay for this.

8 So just to give you -- I'll just go through this
9 quickly and submit this as a report to the Council.
10 This is the outcome from the August 31st outreach and
11 shelter count. And as you can see there was 157.

12 We've, sort of, had a two prong approach. We
13 wanted to canvas in the community, so we had 120
14 volunteers who went out between 7:30 and 10:00
15 o'clock on that day in 22 different quadrants in the
16 community asking people for information or observing
17 people who refused to be interviewed, so 157 were
18 included in that adult and youth.

19 Then there were 54 people who came to the Bean's
20 cafe breakfast that morning where we offered surveys
21 and asked for information from those folks. We
22 unduplicated to ensure that those weren't included in
23 our outreach count.

24 And then we had the shelters, the three main
25 shelters, Covenant House, Brother Francis Shelter and

1 Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission on that day. So all
2 totaled from -- just from that count, there were 527
3 adults contacted and there were 78 youth contacted
4 for a total of 605.

5 This was the age distribution of the people that
6 provided us with their demographic information and
7 it's helpful to us to understand that we really do
8 have somewhat of an aging population. We feel that
9 these numbers are representative of the whole 527,
10 although only 123 provided us with age information on
11 that day.

12 This was a question that the Assembly had asked
13 us, you know, is there some migration from
14 communities? Are people coming to Anchorage because
15 of the homeless services or because of housing and
16 tight times in other communities?

17 And so we asked the question, when did you move to
18 Anchorage and were you homeless at the time of your
19 move. And you can see here that very few people were
20 homeless at the time of the move when they came to
21 Anchorage. Within 12 months prior to the count only
22 10 people had moved to Anchorage and six of them were
23 homeless at the time.

24 And then from those numbers we learned that three
25 were from other communities in the State and three

1 were from out of state.

2 If you go a little further out between one and
3 five years you see a few more folks who came to the
4 community, but still not a big proportion of people
5 who were homeless at the time. And, again, there
6 were only 80 people who we were able to get responses
7 from on this question, but we do think it's somewhat
8 representative of the sample.

9 So having these numbers really allows us to count
10 for the adults and to do for the first time a more
11 targeted, cold weather shelter program. Really to
12 the credit of Catholic Social Services -- and I see
13 Lisa Caldara (ph) here who is the shelter director,
14 to their credit they have been managing with more and
15 more people, with no new money, with tremendous
16 strain.

17 And, you know, that's one of the things that's
18 frequently mentioned by the community, that there's a
19 lot of people on the campus and we say yes, there are
20 a lot of people on the campus and they're doing a
21 tremendous job managing all of that, but we would
22 like to begin pulling out some of the people from
23 that -- from the shelter and we'd like to pull
24 everybody out and get them the housing. That's the
25 main goal, but there are people -- we have a pretty

1 large percentage of folks that are elders.

2 On one day when Lisa pulled the count there were
3 67 people who were over the age of 65. And we also
4 know there's a pretty intensive group of people who
5 have had traumatic brain injuries and severe mental
6 illness who are in the population that we'd like to
7 begin targeting very specific resources to those
8 individuals.

9 So this cold weather shelter plan will not only
10 include trying to account for every soul that shows
11 up for services, but also specialized services for
12 particular populations.

13 This is just some planning information, but this
14 provides some information about the community
15 commitment that's come forward. The Anchorage
16 Assembly was the first to bring resources to us.
17 They committed \$500,000 in what was probably a one
18 time budget excess. We probably won't see money
19 again, but felt that they wanted to try some of the
20 programs and solution. They were very excited about
21 coordinated entry and so they provided 500,000 in
22 April.

23 And then in August Providence Health Systems also
24 became invested in the community work and the systems
25 work and provided nearly a million dollars.

1 Then in October we launched our Pay For Success
2 Program and I have some documents to provide to the
3 Council on that program. We'd like to continue
4 engaging the Council around the Pay For Success
5 project.

6 And then just really emphasizing the Federal,
7 Municipal and community investment in taking Housing
8 First and permanent, supportive housing to scale. We
9 know that's a shared goal with the Council.

10 And the last thing that's recently happened is
11 we've been participating with the Bloomberg (ph)
12 Foundation's What Works Cities effort and we will be
13 able to participate with other Pacific Northwest
14 communities around planning -- around homelessness
15 and common data, shared data numbers and measures, so
16 that's exciting to us.

17 I'll just go through these last ones 'cause I know
18 I'm over time. This is what we think the adult
19 system looks like, the percentage of the people who
20 have different needs and what the count -- a more
21 specific data count and coordinated entry allows us
22 to look at specific strategies for each of the people
23 and according to their needs.

24 And if you think about the (indiscernible)
25 vasperdot -- as being from zero to 17 you see the top

1 half of the folks would be, perhaps, 10 and above.
2 These are more permanent, supportive housing programs
3 and projects aimed at that population.

4 If you think about the middle population, we feel
5 that more of a treatment, direct to treatment type of
6 approach, sober housing, time limited housing
7 subsidies, vocational rehabilitation, those kind of
8 strategies are effective with that middle group of
9 people in the assessment scale.

10 And then the bottom group is one that would be
11 people like the Work Van Project that we've
12 implemented where we're trying to get people access
13 right directly to -- back to community housing and
14 back to employment.

15 So that's what the increased count provides for us
16 and that's how we're looking forward to working with
17 the Coalition and United Way and our other partners
18 over the next year.

19 BUTCHER: Okay. Thank you very, Carmen, Nancy. Do we have
20 any questions?

21 KUIPER: (Indiscernible - away from microphone) I heard you
22 say you would like to engage the Council further on
23 Pay For Success, what do you mean? How do you want
24 to engage the Council?

25 BURKE: There will be several committees that will work.

1 There will be committees working on programs in terms
2 of the permanent, supportive housing program that
3 we'll promote.

4 There will also be, you know, representatives from
5 the State. The government is one of the main players
6 in that project and so there are a number of
7 Commissioner level folks on the Council we'd like to
8 present to the Council. We've actually even
9 envisioned a Council Member being part of our
10 Steering Committee.

11 Of course, the Mental Health Trust is one of our -
12 - the Mental Health Trust is a sponsor of the project
13 that allows me to do this work and also a part of the
14 partnership that proposed the Pay For Success, so
15 they'll be in.

16 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation will be one of
17 the primary partners in that project, so I guess,
18 it's anyway you'd like to be involved, we'd love it.

19 KUIPER: Well, so my question what -- as you'd envision the
20 time line what does it look like? Is it between now
21 and the next time Council Meeting that you are
22 looking for engagement from some of these Council,
23 from some of us.....

24 BURKE: Yes.

25 KUIPER:between now and then. So you would put an

1 ask to the Council, is that how it will work?

2 BURKE: Yes.

3 KUIPER: Okay, thanks.

4 BUTCHER: And maybe I can jump in a little on this.

5 BURKE: Sure (ph).

6 BUTCHER: We had a gentleman up from Boston last week. We,
7 meaning, you know, the United Way and the Pay For
8 Success, who had a number of meetings. Came over and
9 met with us at Alaska Housing. You know, I know the
10 Mental Health Trust is involved. I know Elizabeth
11 Schultz from the Governor's office had a meeting
12 there as well.

13 And so there were, kind of -- it was, kind of, an
14 introductory, here is who we are. Here is how this
15 works. Let's all discuss how this can move forward
16 because one of the main points of it is every state,
17 every city is different. And so there's no specific
18 plan that another state could come in and say, here's
19 the plan, follow this and you guys are good.

20 It's going to take getting to know all aspects of
21 the community and of the players and then determining
22 okay, this worked in Massachusetts. We think it can
23 work in Alaska. This didn't work in Massachusetts,
24 but maybe it can work in Alaska, so we're really just
25 at the very front end of it.

1 Do we have any other questions? Randall.

2 BURNS: I've still got (ph) a question, but actually might
3 really be to Brian (ph), but maybe you all could
4 answer it, too. And it really has to do -- I've been
5 thinking about as we've been -- you know, the State
6 is involved in this 1115 waiver and data is going to
7 be so important to us.

8 And I'm -- can you just -- could someone describe
9 where we are now with the actual data collection and
10 how successful we feel that it is and how valid
11 because we're really going to need to be able to show
12 the data and use that data when we make our case for
13 providing a lot of these services for the homeless
14 both (ph) and I think it would be good to know, I'd
15 like to have a little bit of understanding of how
16 that data is working now and what we're collecting
17 and I apologize, I don't really know?

18 BUTCHER: Do you want to come up Brian?

19 WILSON: (Indiscernible - away from microphone).....

20 WENGER: Well, I can, yes. We were conferencing on -- on
21 the order you were going to get information. So as
22 far as HMIS -- and I will let Brian talk more about
23 the full balance of state.

24 For Anchorage, we have been working very
25 aggressively to increase the data quality. We've, as

1 Brian mentioned in his report, the support from ICA
2 our data quality is going up significantly. What I
3 would remind the Council of, especially if you're
4 looking for specific data points, the earlier we know
5 what you're looking for, we can make sure that, that
6 information is going in.

7 The data base, as with any data collection
8 mechanism is only as good as the information that
9 comes in, so if we're not tracking the information
10 you need to get out, nothing we do to splice and dice
11 it is going to get you what you need.

12 So from our reporting requirements and from the
13 ways that we're using the information for our Federal
14 reporting requirements, it's quite good. It's
15 improved significantly and we're having a lot of
16 really great participation.

17 Expanding out from that with data sharing and the
18 way we're coming on line with coordinated entry,
19 we're seeing the engagement of new partners. People
20 who aren't federally required to enter, non-
21 traditional providers, so we're getting a new set of
22 information. And those -- we have the benefit of
23 those organizations starting at a high data quality
24 level because we're not allowing poor entry to
25 happen.

1 That being said, again, if we're not getting
2 information from the right people, we're still not
3 going to be able to get you what you need. So if
4 there's specific data that the Council is going to
5 want at any point, the earlier you tell us, the
6 better, but we are starting to use it in new ways, so
7 that, kind of, data clean-up happened in advance of
8 us needing it for our coordinated entry efforts, so
9 that we could make sure that we could trust it when
10 we start using it.

11 BURNS: So if -- who would I -- just have them contact you
12 for the Anchorage, would that be the most sense? And
13 Brian for the rest of state, would that be the most
14 appropriate way?

15 WENGER: Absolutely, yeah.

16 BURNS: Okay.

17 WENGER: Do you have any additional comments for balance of
18 state?

19 WILSON: Yeah. Really just echoing what Carmen said,
20 again, if you were to ask that question last year,
21 I'd have a much different answer, but I'm really
22 confident in the quality of our data that we have
23 now. We're able to provide a count. Just need to
24 make sure what metrics you're looking for. And as we
25 go down this road the quality of data is actually

1 going to improve in a couple of ways.

2 One, our greater capacity and new partnerships
3 through a coordinated entry system.

4 And then secondly, you know, right now in the
5 balance of state we only have 16 communities total
6 that are providing data to our data set, so we have a
7 pretty good understanding in those 16 communities,
8 but as we continue our outreach then we're really
9 going to start to see where the migration is
10 happening in our State and the specific needs of each
11 community.

12 BURNS: Thank you very much.

13 BUTCHER: Yeah. And you really, kind of, hit the nail on
14 the head with some of the issues that we've dealt
15 with where -- and this is a nationwide problem with
16 trying to get accurate enough data to determine how
17 successful you're being, not just the difficulty of
18 getting the data, but the fact that the definition of
19 homelessness changes by community and sometimes is
20 updated -- I mean, excuse me, by organization agency
21 and sometimes it's changed, you know.

22 As an example one definition of homelessness might
23 be somebody sleeping on somebody else's couch is
24 homeless. Another definition of another agency is
25 that person is not homeless. And so it becomes very

1 complicated because sometimes it apples and oranges
2 just between two agencies.

3 BURKE: I'd just like to add one thing, that the Assembly
4 in Anchorage has asked for (microphone cutting out)
5 data point because the data points coming from the
6 Point In Time -- once we have the HMIS system, we can
7 pull usage data, but there's also other information
8 of where people are hitting different systems, so
9 they've asked for balancing data from sleep off,
10 perhaps, from emergency departments and so it depends
11 on what type of data you're looking for.

12 There's another additional piece that the
13 Assembly's asked for and that is the financing
14 structures, where the pinch points are in terms of
15 how Medicaid works in permanent, supported housing,
16 what kinds of support, rental subsidies are needed,
17 so those kind of data points may come from the local
18 communities as well.

19 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have any other questions? Okay.
20 Thank you very much.

21 Next we'd like to have an update on Federal
22 Programs from Colleen Bickford.

23 BICKFORD: Hi, good afternoon. Can you hear me? Well,
24 again, Colleen Bickford. I serve as HUD's field
25 office director for the Anchorage HUD office. We

1 have one field office in -- roughly one in every
2 state, so one here in Alaska.

3 I just -- I want to appreciate all of you serving
4 on this Council and nice to see new faces and
5 appreciate your commitment to this.

6 This, for us, is an opportunity to listen and
7 learn and boy, lots of progress.

8 It's also an opportunity for us at HUD here in the
9 local office to help collaborate on challenges and
10 barriers that come up and that sort of thing. So
11 with that said I want to just say a couple of words.

12 We're a funding agency. Most of HUD's funding
13 that comes into Alaska is administered by our key
14 partners, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, the
15 State Department of Commerce, Community and Economic
16 Development, the Municipality of Anchorage and the
17 229 Federally recognized tribes that receive
18 entitlement housing funding from HUD, much of which
19 is administered by their tribally designated housing
20 entities which are the Regional Housing Authorities.

21 So there are some other grants as well, but that's
22 most of the affordable housing funding, so we really
23 appreciate the partnership and the good work that all
24 of those partners do with the HUD funding.

25 For the purposes of our update, there's lots of

1 great, deep coverage on how HUD funding is being used
2 in the housing conference as well as today, so I'm
3 not going to spend time going into lots of detail.
4 We're available to answer any questions offline any
5 time, but I do want to -- I'll just briefly mention
6 HUD's funding award since your last meeting in May.

7 Some have been mentioned, but let me just say that
8 HUD and the Department of Justice jointly funded and
9 awarded that Pay For Success demonstration --
10 permanent housing demonstration award that Nancy just
11 mentioned, Nancy Burke, for re-entry populations, 1.3
12 million to United Way for Anchorage and Mat-Su.

13 HUD awarded a family self-sufficiency grant to
14 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation for families that
15 are assisted with the Housing Choice Voucher Program,
16 267,000.

17 We awarded another to Fair Housing Initiatives
18 program awards to the Alaska Legal Services for about
19 -- for 425,000. That's where education, outreach,
20 investigations, fighting housing discrimination.

21 I think Bryan mentioned this in the introduction,
22 another 24 VASH vouchers were awarded to AHFC for the
23 good work they do in the partnering with the VA.

24 And then the National Housing Trust Fund, AHFC has
25 been designated by the Governor to administer that

1 and that targets very low income, three million. And
2 my understanding is that you're in the process of
3 applying right now.

4 So I just want to -- those are examples of the,
5 you know, diverse kinds of awards that doesn't even
6 included the entitlement funding that comes into the
7 State for affordable housing. And congratulate all
8 of the folks in this room and others who worked hard
9 on those applications and good job on the success of
10 getting funded.

11 The only policy updates -- update I want to
12 mention and there's been a great session on it is
13 HUD's new final rule on equal access to housing and
14 services regardless of gender and this effects many
15 of the community planning and development programs
16 that help prevent homelessness.

17 And lastly I just want to take this opportunity to
18 thank lots of the partners here in the room for -- in
19 June we had an entourage of HUD principals that came
20 to Alaska to focus on two things really, on how HUD's
21 public and Indian housing programs were delivered
22 here and climate change impacts because HUD has a
23 seat at the table of the Arctic Executive Steering
24 Committee.

25 So this was a week long of stakeholder meetings,

1 tours, site visits in five different diverse
2 communities; Anchorage, Bethel, Newtok, Fairbanks and
3 Alaktak (ph). Tours were lead by Cook Inlet Housing
4 Authority and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and
5 by AVCP and Interior Regional Housing Authority in
6 those regions.

7 Bryan Butcher and Nancy Burke co-convened a
8 session on homelessness in Anchorage. These are
9 really important opportunity to highlight what we do
10 well in Alaska, collaboration and leveraging and
11 educate those policy makers in Washington D.C.

12 So I just wanted to take this opportunities to
13 thank the partners I've mentioned and many others who
14 are in the room or on the phone who also did a lot of
15 work to help make their visit a success, so thank you
16 very much.

17 BUTCHER: Thanks, Colleen. Do we have any questions for
18 Colleen?

19 BURNS: I just have one if I can. Is the National Housing
20 Trust Fund something that you're funding?

21 BICKFORD: Yes, it is.

22 BURNS: And so the three million, it's essentially three
23 million, it will be coming to the State?

24 BICKFORD: Yes, it will. It will be going through Alaska
25 Housing Finance Corporation, um-hum.

1 BURNS: And what is the timing do you think on that
2 (indiscernible)?

3 BICKFORD: You know, I don't know if I know the timing. Do
4 you know the timing?

5 REED: It's linked to the Alaska Housing Finance
6 Corporation submission of the State's Annual Plan and
7 they have submitted that and we've asked for some
8 clarifications and changes, so we're working on that
9 right now. Whether it makes this round of AHFC's
10 competitive funding that's in process right now, I'm
11 not sure if it's going to make that, but if it
12 doesn't make that it will make next years, so that's
13 my understanding of where we are right now.

14 BURNS: Okay, thank you.

15 BUTCHER: Do we have any other questions for Colleen or
16 Carma? Okay, thank you very much.

17 Okay. United Way update.

18 BROGAN: Good afternoon. My name is Sue Brogan. I'm with
19 United Way of Anchorage. I wanted to give you a
20 quick update on Alaska 211.

21 To Mr. Burns' point about data collection, today
22 we have 970 different statewide providers that have
23 committed to helping build out our resource data
24 base. And we have about 300 different resources
25 currently in the data base.

1 What you're looking at is our 2015 Annual Report.
2 And just to highlight a couple of new things that
3 we're doing with this statewide data collection
4 system that we have that we've all been partners to
5 build.

6 The first is now for the second -- third open
7 enrollment period actually, we have a health care
8 navigator inside of the call center. And so when
9 individuals call Alaska 211 they can get connected
10 directly with somebody that can either enroll them in
11 health care, enroll them in Medicaid, Denali Kid
12 Care.

13 And when we were testing the model that we were
14 testing was, you know, is this a viable way to
15 immediately connect a caller with a service beyond
16 the 211 structure. And if you look at the Alaska --
17 or the Anchorage stats down at the bottom in the
18 highlights you can see there was a 33 percent
19 increase in connection around health care.

20 Kenai Peninsula there was a 16 percent. Mat-Su
21 had a 13 -- or an 18 percent. So it's a viable way
22 to not only use the 211 system to connect, but then
23 also to further figure out navigation systems.

24 The other really exciting nuance that we've
25 introduced is with the Recover Alaska Resource Center

1 project. This is placing another specialized
2 opportunity within our call center to connect callers
3 with services and treatment for alcohol and substance
4 -- substance abuse and mental health referrals and
5 resources.

6 We were doing that anyway, but the new component
7 to that is that within our system we have the ability
8 to flag every referral that we make for that
9 particular taxonomy category, so substance abuse and
10 alcohol, mental health. And so now we flag those
11 referrals and we do a mandatory follow-up call and if
12 the caller agrees to this. And so what that is now
13 creating is a picture about how that subset is
14 navigating to services or not.

15 And so a quick story. And so we had an individual
16 that called us that was looking for the location of
17 AA meeting for their spouse. And the information
18 referral specialist gave them that referral and asked
19 them if they could do a call back. The caller said
20 that sure, you can call me back. So it goes into a
21 queue and it gets -- you know, it gets programmed and
22 scheduled.

23 And so when we did the call back what the
24 information referral specialist discovered was the
25 spouse who was calling on behalf of their spouse,

1 that spouse had changed their mind and they weren't
2 ready to go to an AA meeting, but through the course
3 of that conversation the information referral
4 specialists was able to offer a subsequent referral
5 to the spouse for an Al-Anon meeting, so that's the
6 new work of Alaska 211.

7 So we're also more engage in community planning
8 efforts. We've been at the Mat-Su. I have been up
9 there the last three weeks as their -- as the Mat-Su
10 Health Foundation is looking at how -- alternative
11 uses for their new building.

12 So, you know, 211 was there not only as a data
13 experience, kind of, sharing here's what we know
14 about the Mat-Su and the callers up there, but then
15 also to share some of these newer bodies of work
16 about how people are accessing information.

17 So, I think, that the system continues to mature.
18 It started, you know, in delivering one thing and
19 we're really strong in that delivery now and now
20 we're branching out, so it's a very exciting time for
21 Alaska 211.

22 And as you've heard, the new partnerships that
23 United Way is getting into that only enhances the
24 system further. So we're very appreciative of our
25 continued funders, Alaska Children's Trust, Alaska

1 Housing Finance Corporation, Alaska Mental Health
2 Trust Authority, the State of Alaska and the
3 Municipality of Anchorage.

4 So I'd be happy to answer any questions that you
5 have.

6 BUTCHER: Do we have any questions for Sue? All right.

7 BROGAN: You're welcome.

8 BUTCHER: Thank you very much.

9 COLLINS: Sue provided a little (indiscernible) report that
10 she handed out to the Council Members and we'll put
11 that on the Council page on the AHFC website so that
12 everyone can access that.

13 BUTCHER: Thanks, Carrie.

14 BROGAN: Thank you.

15 BUTCHER: Thank you. All right. Next we'd like to move to
16 Alaska Housing Finance Corporation Program Update
17 both from our Planning and Program Development we
18 have our Director Daniel Delfino and Public Housing
19 Department we have our Director Cathy Stone, welcome.

20 DELFINO: Okay. Hi, everyone. As Bryan said I'm Daniel
21 Delfino with the Planning Department at AHFC. We're
22 going to break this up and try and (indiscernible) a
23 little bit behind schedule, so Carrie is going to
24 give the BHAP and the SNHG Program update and then
25 I'm going to talk about briefly a couple of new

1 things that we're doing in the Planning Department
2 with our homeless grants and data collection effort
3 that we did and then Cathy Stone with the Public
4 Housing update.

5 So, Carrie, do you need anything pulled up on the
6 projector?

7 COLLINS: No (ph).

8 DELFINO: Okay.

9 COLLINS: So just one clarifying thing, I'm going to talk
10 about (indiscernible - away from microphone) there
11 was one correction made to the information that was
12 sent to the Council Members in advance to the
13 meeting, so you have a new copy on your sheet and I
14 will point out the correction as we go through it.
15 All the copies that everyone has here and everything
16 posted on our website is accurate.

17 So in response to discussions with Council Members
18 and feedback that we've been getting over the last
19 few meetings we -- Daniel and I took an approach to
20 try to provide additional detail on who is being
21 supported and what kind of programs are being funded
22 through the Basic Homeless Assistance Program and
23 Special Needs Housing Grant Program for you guys
24 today.

25 So collectively we have -- 42 awards have been

1 made between the SNHG and the BHAP Program this last
2 year. And that means the one correction on your
3 sheet, it should be 42 rather than 64 awards.

4 We took all the information for everyone that's
5 been funded under those two programs this last year
6 and broke it out into six broad categories. So we
7 broke that out into Shelter Operations, Domestic
8 Violence Shelters, Rapid Rehousing Prevention,
9 Transitional Housing, Re-entry and Permanent
10 Supportive Housing.

11 There's a lot of activities that are funded under
12 these programs and so made an effort to fix them into
13 the box as appropriately as we could. Sometimes
14 there's some overlap though, but we wanted to give
15 you guys a better sense of, kind of, the types of
16 activities that are being funded.

17 So there is a total of 42 different program types
18 that have been funded through the program. You can
19 see the number of communities that are being served
20 by the different types of activities here on the
21 sheet. The total number of Alaska's in service over
22 13,000 through these combined programs. And an
23 annual grant of \$8.6 million. This works out to
24 about \$645 per person and you can see the breakout
25 based on different types of interventions.

1 Moving forward we have a few -- like Daniel said
2 he's going to speak to you of a couple other changes
3 that we've been going through, but one is that we're
4 looking forward to partnering with our Public Housing
5 Division putting together some non-competitive, low
6 income housing tax credits and bringing in some
7 assistance with our new 811 Program to put out an RFP
8 for housing assistance through that new program
9 moving forward. And so we're hoping to have that
10 come out this next month with a return in early
11 spring.

12 We also have been working with the Alaska Mental
13 Health Trust on some of their movement of some of
14 their funding that they've been working on. And so
15 we're working with them right now to, kind of,
16 incorporate some of that movement of the -- the
17 things that they've been funding that are, kind of,
18 housing related that are going to move over to AHFC
19 to help as a partnership for that. And so depending
20 on how -- what that, kind of, looks like when it all
21 comes together, we may be moving forward with a
22 special RFP for the SNHG Program.

23 And that, we also in this next application round
24 for the BHAP Program will be moving towards a more
25 community coordinated application process. Prior to

1 this next round communities have been able to -- and
2 organizations have been able to apply for funding
3 through single, individual applications and so we're
4 looking towards doing more of a community approach to
5 that program with having all the agencies coming
6 together to work together to put through one
7 application for BHAP funding for their community.

8 At the current level of funding that we have for
9 SNHG and BHAP our programs are sustainable through
10 2026. And additional funding comes in through the
11 overall HAP Program through our capital budget
12 supports matching for the HUD 811 Program, support of
13 United Way's 211 Program and support of the Alaska
14 Coalition on Housing and Homelessness and part of
15 this conference.

16 I'm happy to answer any questions that you have on
17 there or if you want to go to them and then we can
18 circle back around.

19 BUTCHER: Do we have a question for Carrie? Randall.

20 BURNS: Yes. So is it annual grant per household, is it
21 household or person? So are these -- is that based
22 on an individual or is that.....

23 COLLINS: Um-hum. (Affirmative)

24 BURNS:on a household that might have more than one
25 family -- or a family.....

1 COLLINS: Yeah. So.....

2 BURNS:or more (ph)?

3 COLLINS: Do you want me to.....

4 DELFINO: (Indiscernible - away from microphone) it's made a
5 little bit murky because of the Special Needs Housing
6 Grant Program. A lot of these households are single
7 person households, but there are some that are four
8 families or that may have a one or a two bedroom unit
9 in them, so we try to use the term household just to
10 acknowledge the fact that they're not single
11 individual in all cases.

12 BURNS: Okay, thank you.

13 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions for Carrie? Suzi.

14 PEARSON: Could you provide a little bit more clarification
15 around the fact that, that first bullet point under
16 Program Notes about proposed funding levels, so if we
17 stay at that specific level today in 2026 you can
18 still provide that same specific amount without
19 increases or anything, correct?

20 COLLINS: Yes.

21 DELFINO: That's correct.

22 PEARSON: Okay, yeah.

23 DELFINO: Sorry. There's a very elaborate budget worksheet
24 that we have that charts this out over time and at
25 the current levels assuming inflation, things like

1 that, we would be sustainable through 2026.

2 PEARSON: So (indiscernible), okay.

3 BUTCHER: We were going to bring it, but we couldn't fit in
4 the room.

5 PEARSON: Thank you.

6 BUTCHER: Okay. Any other questions for Carrie? Okay,
7 thank you, Carrie.

8 DELFINO: Okay. Just a couple of things that I did want to
9 point out. The reason why there was a discrepancy in
10 the number of activities that we funded is we're
11 responding to a bunch of data requests right now and
12 originally we had included the Grant Match Program
13 and some of our other homeless programs.

14 So it was a conversation that we had internally
15 about potentially adding the Grant Match Program
16 because it does fund a lot of the activities that are
17 relevant to this Council and we just wanted to
18 provide a heads up or to the extent that you don't
19 want us we can keep it out, but we thought it might
20 be more appropriate to start bringing those
21 activities into these reports to more accurately
22 cover what we're actually funding across the State.

23 And then on a related point, we have a total of
24 six programs that we operate within the Planning
25 Department that target various cohorts in the

1 homeless or supportive housing community across the
2 state and we just wanted to let folks know that, you
3 know, we try not to be overly bureaucratic.

4 And one of the things that evolved over the past
5 10 years or so of administering all these programs is
6 every time you come in, you come to Carrie you've get
7 a HAP grant. You come to me you'd get a SNHG grant.
8 We give you multiple grant agreements.

9 We had over 60 agreements that we were
10 administering last year and we consolidated that down
11 to just over 30. So now if you're a service agency
12 you get one grant agreement from Alaska Housing as
13 opposed to up to four for effectively the same
14 purpose.

15 So hopefully we're reducing the administrative
16 burden on some of our grantees and at least
17 internally at Alaska Housing it's helped us share the
18 work load internally and hopefully eliminate some
19 redundant files for everyone.

20 Apart from that the one thing I wanted to bring up
21 before I turn this over to Cathy is Mr. Jessee
22 brought up at the last meeting I guess something that
23 I've been hearing at least since I've been in this
24 job is the sensitivity of the counts and some of the
25 information that we get on homeless data. Is the

1 weather good. Do we have as many communities
2 participating. And one of the things that we're
3 trying to do is see if there was any way that we
4 could assess the sensitivity of data to some of those
5 factors.

6 So we weren't trying to do anything as ambitious
7 as what Nancy was presenting earlier about a global
8 count for the community, but we wanted to try and
9 answer some of the questions as to, you know, where
10 are these folks located throughout our communities
11 and how does that change if we went back over time
12 and saw the same neighborhood on a rainy day versus a
13 sunny day, morning versus evening and we
14 (indiscernible) say can we actually do this. Well,
15 we were working with our partners at the University
16 in Anchorage and in Fairbanks and we took a shot at
17 it.

18 So what we did it is from late July through to mid
19 August we sent students out in teams of two just for
20 safety. We wanted to make sure they were always in
21 pairs, out in Fairbanks and in Anchorage. We sent
22 them out to walk along a randomized sample.

23 So these were not trained service providers or
24 folks with any expertise on housing and homelessness.
25 These were in Anchorage undergraduate students. In

1 Fairbanks they were graduates students.

2 We told them to walk around the communities and
3 report what they say. So any time they stopped to
4 observe something, that counted as an observation
5 which will become more relevant when I get to the
6 next page.

7 So they would walk around for maybe two, three
8 hours depending on the time of day and we asked them
9 to track, did they see tents, did they see homeless
10 people, did they see anyone drinking and did they see
11 any panhandling activities and we just asked them to
12 report that. And anytime they stopped to report any
13 of those things, that would be one observation.

14 So, for example, if they were walking along
15 Northern Lights by the Sears Mall and they stopped to
16 count five people, that would be one observation with
17 five people.

18 They did this for three weeks. The total cost of
19 this project was about a little over \$6,000 for
20 Anchorage and Fairbanks. We got to partner with two
21 University departments. It was a good experience, I
22 think, for us and the students. And it was -- the
23 total cost of the project was right around what it
24 costs for a multi-family development appraisal, so it
25 was fairly inexpensive at least as far as the reports

1 that I've commissioned since I've been at Alaska
2 Housing.

3 So the data, what did we find. I'm not going to
4 go through all this in detail, but if anyone does
5 want a more detailed presentation I'd be happy to
6 meet with you individually at our offices at Alaska
7 Housing and answer any questions that you did -- or
8 that you might have about our method or what we
9 counted, but what it provided up here are just broad
10 strokes of the neighborhoods that they were canvassing
11 in Anchorage and in Fairbanks.

12 So you can see week 1, July 29th through August
13 5th. Week 2 August 6th through the 12th. And week 3
14 August 14th through the 21st.

15 And just as a helpful note for anyone thinking
16 about something like this, the reason why this
17 stopped on August 21st and the reason why it only
18 cost \$6,000 is the rate when you're using University
19 staff goes through the roof if you go past August
20 21st, so this is how we were able to keep it on
21 budget.

22 What we found was the weather was a rather harsh
23 determinate. When folks would go out to the same
24 neighborhoods when it was sunny they saw more people.
25 When it was raining they saw fewer people. When it

1 was really raining they saw nobody. And they were
2 driving around trying to find, some of those students
3 were frustrated, like, we can't find anyone. It's
4 like look, you don't have to. We just want you to
5 report what you observe, that's the whole point of
6 this, but we -- again, it's not a broad universe, a
7 total population count.

8 We just wanted to give you some idea of the
9 sensitivity to these neighborhoods and what you might
10 find based on weather or time over repeated sampling,
11 so just based on this our hunch is that if you did
12 this, say, in June when the weather was nice, you
13 would have a much easier time finding people than if
14 you waited until it got cold.

15 BURNS: You know, (indiscernible) mosquitoes has
16 something to do (indiscernible) since there was a lot
17 more tents in Fairbanks.

18 DELFINO: Right, on that -- so I'll get to the tents in one
19 second, but I guess just the last thing I would say
20 about the data that they observed, they did count if
21 folks were in transit, so if they saw a person who
22 was moving from one area to another, they would
23 report that, but in large part whenever they saw
24 folks that they identified as being homeless they
25 were always in groups. So if you look at the

1 observations they usually found more than one person
2 for observation.

3 The tents, it was a similar thing. Mr. Burns,
4 especially when we get into Fairbanks, they had a
5 harder time, the students, locating folks that they
6 could identify as visibly being homeless in
7 Fairbanks. They had a really easy time locating
8 tents.

9 The reason why you see so many tents is we asked
10 them to go back to the same locations over time to
11 see if they saw anything different when they could go
12 back the following week, so a lot of these tents,
13 there weren't really 84 tents, it's just they counted
14 the same tents.....

15 BURNS: (Simultaneous speech).....

16 DELFINO:along the Chester Creek trail, for example,
17 sometimes there would be -- I think one week there
18 were 11 tents, than three were gone the next week.
19 So we were just trying to get a sense of do they pack
20 up and move or are the same tents there for three
21 weeks on end. And in Fairbanks there seemed to be a
22 fairly stable tent population.

23 So in the interest of time I won't go any further
24 on that unless any of you have any questions, but I'd
25 be happy to answer any questions that you don't feel

1 comfortable asking in private if you ever want to set
2 up a meeting.

3 BUTCHER: Yeah. And let me just add to that briefly.

4 Obviously the point of this wasn't to come up with
5 some kind of detailed, profound information. It was
6 for a very small amount of money, not only have an
7 opportunity to build our relationship with the
8 University which is something that we're trying to
9 do, but also try to give us some insight that might
10 possibly lead to a next step where we might look at
11 something that, you know, might give us an angle of
12 where we'd want to go to get something a little
13 larger, so just to let everybody know, you know.

14 I think you can probably tell that this was just,
15 kind of, a tiny first step to see if it was going to
16 lead to something else.

17 Any questions?

18 JESSEE: Well, I just really appreciate this. I think this
19 is really a proactive activity that you guys
20 undertook. And I understand the limitations, but I
21 think the fact that you worked at coming up with a
22 way to do this on the cheap to get us started on
23 this, I'm really appreciative of it. I think this
24 was a great effort.

25 DELFINO: Thank you. I appreciate that especially from a

1 funding partner, but yes, we do listen when you
2 speak.

3 BUTCHER: Do we have any other questions? I see Nancy has
4 and -- okay.

5 BURKE: (Indiscernible - no microphone) communities that
6 you are studying, this was not something that was
7 part of the community. And I think while \$6,000
8 might be small (indiscernible - no microphone) and
9 I'm really -- I'm interested in whether or not
10 (indiscernible).....

11 BUTCHER: And then that's a very good point, Nancy. When we
12 discussed this and initially, kind of, put it
13 together we did not know what the Muni, you know, was
14 doing in terms of this, so we didn't collaborate with
15 any of these communities because we saw it as just a
16 very small piece.

17 Had we known, you know, it would have turned out a
18 little bit different, but like I said, it was --
19 because it was just, kind of, a small pilot project
20 with the University students we didn't expand it. If
21 we looked to look at things in more detail that's
22 absolutely what we'd do (ph).

23 Okay. If there are no other questions for Daniel,
24 Cathy.

25 STONE: My turn. Thank you, Bryan. Good afternoon, my

1 name is Cathy Stone, the Director of the Public
2 Housing Division for Alaska Housing. And first I'd
3 just like to give you guys a big picture overview of
4 what's going on with our, you know, Federal funds
5 that we get from HUD for our Voucher Program and
6 Public Housing and then I'll go into slightly more
7 detail on our set aside programs and then be happy to
8 take any questions.

9 In general I can tell you that our overall
10 utilization rates are very high. We're at 98 percent
11 on our major Voucher Program, that means 98 percent
12 of the vouchers are being utilized and that two
13 percent slide is usually just the number of people
14 that are out shopping or vouchers that are being
15 issued and that's a statewide number.

16 And in our Public Housing side we're at a 97
17 percent utilization rate.

18 I should tell you first, statewide we have about
19 5,000 voucher and in our public housing we have about
20 1,600 public housing units. Those are the units that
21 we own, manage and maintain.

22 A co-worker of mine, to coin his phrase, each
23 night we have about 10,000 heads in beds, so that's a
24 number that's being held through both those programs
25 each night.

1 Average size of our families is two. A little bit
2 bigger in our Empowering choice housing program for
3 victims of domestic violence and sexual assault,
4 that's close to three, but that represents those.
5 Generally single moms with, you know, a couple of
6 children.

7 So to go to a little more detail, over the past
8 year some good news is we issued over 300 more
9 vouchers. And the reason behind that can be
10 attributed to our rent reform and our Jumpstart
11 Program where it's our set aside program for working
12 families. And what happens with that is we now have
13 a five year time limit with stepped up rents and
14 we're working very closely with those families in
15 that program to give them resources to get on their
16 feet.

17 And our Family Self-sufficiency Program, Sherrie
18 Hinshaw is in charge of that program. She's here
19 today with a number of our case managers. We ramped
20 up that program over the last year and we are seeing
21 excellent results with families paying more. Incomes
22 have risen over the past year from -- I had a number
23 of \$20,000 to about \$27,000 on average incomes with,
24 of course, the higher numbers being higher on that
25 scale.

1 So because of that and based on the nature of our
2 block grant because our families are paying more,
3 that freed up more funds to issue more vouchers, so
4 that's the good news story. 300 more vouchers over
5 the past year issued statewide.

6 BURNS: Can I just ask one question to clarify that (ph)?

7 STONE: Yes, Mr. Burns.

8 BURNS: So the five years -- so they have five years and
9 then the rental assistance ceases, is that what
10 you're saying?

11 STONE: Correct.

12 BURNS: Okay.

13 STONE: In the Voucher Program the rental assistance
14 ceases. In the Public Housing Program they are
15 allowed to stay in the unit, but they will pay our
16 market rent. If.....

17 BURNS: All right (ph).

18 STONE: Once they go off program they are permitted to
19 reapply. There's no time limit on that. They can
20 reapply. Bearing in mind right now our waiting list
21 statewide total a little over 2,000 people. So high
22 demand continues for housing statewide, particularly
23 in Anchorage. We just opened our waiting list and
24 got 1,800 applicants that we've been working through
25 over the past couple months.

1 To move along in -- we operate several set aside
2 programs for higher needs populations. First I'll
3 speak to our Empowering Choice Housing Program. This
4 was our original one. Looking at Suzi Pearson, she
5 was instrumental in coordinating that with -- between
6 AHFC, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual
7 Assault and the network on Domestic Violence and
8 Sexual Assault.

9 We have 212 vouchers allocated to that with
10 referrals coming in from shelters throughout the
11 state and currently we have 175 leased in that
12 program. We continue to work with it, work with the
13 shelters to make sure that those referrals are coming
14 in.

15 UNIDENTIFIED: Is there a waiting list (indiscernible - away from
16 microphone)?

17 STONE: No, no. Some communities are full, but we just
18 communicate with the shelter and say you've used your
19 eight allocated Empowering Choice vouchers and so
20 we'll let you know when one is up and then you can
21 send another referral. That's a three year time
22 limited program.

23 And most of the folks in that program are strongly
24 encouraged when they come in to also apply for our
25 regular Voucher Program so they can get some longer

1 term assistance.

2 I'll move on. Our VASH Program, you heard Colleen
3 talk about it. Bryan mentioned it. We got 24 more
4 VASH this spring and so now we're at 271 VASH
5 vouchers statewide. That's a really good news story
6 also.

7 I heard a statistic -- I mean, I heard -- we're on
8 a list last year that said we were fourth in the
9 nation for issuing these. That speaks to the
10 relationship with the VA and our Housing Program
11 offices throughout the state that as soon as the VA
12 finds a good candidate, they get them right to our
13 offices and we meet with them, we brief them and get
14 them out in the community trying to find a unit, so
15 we're pleased with that and we continue to get more
16 VASH from the VA and HUD as our success continues.

17 Next I'll move on to our Re-entry Program. This
18 is a collaboration with the Department of
19 Corrections, another program that is showing great
20 results. We're currently at 88 leased statewide. I
21 should mention that 20 of those are new to Anchorage.
22 Initially we were just using HOME funds.

23 It's, kind of, this strange situation where when
24 you're using HOME funds statewide that can include
25 Anchorage, but we were realizing that so many people

1 coming out of incarceration really did want to settle
2 here. It's where the jobs and opportunities are, so
3 we broke off 20 of our regular vouchers and have
4 offered them up into this program and so the
5 referrals now are coming from DOC into Anchorage as
6 well. We have 88 leased with 20 out shopping, so I
7 expect we'll be over 100 within the next couple of
8 months.

9 And also as part of that program is a
10 collaboration with the Department of Health and
11 Social Services Office of Children's Services that
12 for youth, and we currently have 20 vouchers. Those
13 are for youth aging out of foster care between 18 and
14 24. We continue to work with those (indiscernible)
15 to try and find out how to reach those kids and how
16 to get them into housing and sustained on a path
17 toward being in housing.

18 And then final I'll bring up our latest and
19 greatest which -- I mean, we're pleased with. It's
20 just a couple years old, but it's doing great, is our
21 Moving Home Program. And this is a collaboration
22 with Department of Health and Social Services.
23 Again, it's a referral based program where they have
24 a vulnerability index that they take people from and
25 they refer them to us based on if they have a higher

1 vulnerability they're referred to us and then we just
2 provide the voucher.

3 The Public Housing Division is very good at
4 providing the technical housing piece and getting the
5 housing funded. We find we do much better with
6 vulnerable populations when there is some case
7 management from those who are good at that working
8 with us.

9 So the Moving Home Program, we have 150 allocated.
10 Currently we have 123 that are leased and 35 out
11 shopping, so we expect by year end that we will be
12 fully utilized in that program and looking forward to
13 that.

14 That's all I have unless you have any questions.

15 BUTCHER: Okay. Do we have any questions for Cathy?

16 BURNS: I just have one, sorry.

17 BUTCHER: Yes.

18 BURNS: On the VA Program and the Re-entry Program I'm
19 assuming that some of these individuals have co-
20 occurring illnesses and disabilities, is that correct
21 or not sure?

22 STONE: I'm not sure. I know with --.....

23 BURNS: Okay.

24 STONE:with both of those programs they are case
25 managed. The VA manages the VASH and the DOC they're

1 subject to parole or probation officer.....

2 BURNS: Okay, thank you.

3 STONE:yeah, assessment. You're welcome.

4 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you.

5 STONE: Okay.

6 BUTCHER: Okay. Like to move on to an update from the
7 Department of Health and Social Services.

8 BURNS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm just going to speak
9 briefly and then Susan Musante and Kelda Barstad from
10 the Department are going to also talk.

11 I would just like to briefly mention that, you
12 know, until recently housing really wasn't a program
13 that the Division of Behavioral Health and the
14 Department itself was actively engaged in and we
15 certainly, I think, along with Mr. Martone have
16 certainly learned that housing is, in fact, a health
17 issue. And we've certainly been exploring how to
18 improve our contributions and our involvement. And
19 Susan and her staff and Kelda were really making
20 efforts.

21 Kelda, are you going to mention the 1959 at all?

22 BARSTAD: Yes.

23 BURNS: Okay, good, because I noticed that in a lot of the
24 -- in Kevin and other presentations have mentioned
25 the 1959. We're, sort of, moving away from that and

1 I'm sure Kelda can talk about that, so I'm just going
2 to turn it over to Susan and then Kelda.

3 MUSANTE: Okay. So Cathy already spoke about the Moving
4 Home Program, but I just want to add that it's truly
5 -- it's been a wonderful project for us and a
6 wonderful partnership. It's truly a supportive
7 housing program because through AHFC we have the
8 housing -- integrated housing opportunity, so the
9 scattered site and through our providers people are
10 able to get the kinds of supports that they need to
11 sustain their housing, so thank you for that
12 partnership.

13 So another -- I'm just going to highlight some
14 projects real briefly. I think you all know about
15 our ACT (ph) team which is -- uses the Housing First
16 philosophy, but it's a trans-disciplinary team that
17 provides wrap around services to people who are
18 homeless or vulnerable for homelessness and have a
19 serious mental illness and usually a co-occurring
20 substance disorder.

21 That team can take up to 100 folks, but they ramp
22 up slowly by it's model. They're at about just under
23 50 people now. They're ramping up in the way that
24 they should. Very exciting to us.

25 Two people who were involved in -- these are very

1 intensive services. Two people have graduated to
2 lower level of services and we've been only doing
3 this a year, so it's working.

4 We also have our Intensive Case Management Program
5 which primarily is focused on people with serious
6 substance use disorder and they're up to around 40
7 people. Both of those programs, the majority of the
8 people involved in them are housed, not all of them
9 are. Some of them are still in services and trying
10 to get housed.

11 One of the reasons they can be successful is
12 because of the Moving Home Program that has made
13 housing available to these two programs.

14 The Integrated Housing unit of which I am a part
15 also does employment. I want to throw that out there
16 because I think employment is also important for
17 people's health and sustainability. And our
18 employment folks are working on a crosswalk with the
19 Division of Voc Rehab and the Department of Labor so
20 that we can, kind of, figure out who can pay for what
21 services and where are the gaps.

22 We were awarded the -- and Kevin mentioned this,
23 this morning. We were awarded the Innovator --
24 Innovation Accelerator Program, I can never say it
25 right, track I and during that process we also

1 developed a crosswalk on housing services that can be
2 funded through Medicaid, so that we could identify
3 gaps and hope to inform the Medicaid reform process,
4 so.....

5 And then our really big news this time that I want
6 to bring up is that we have as a part of our housing
7 plan that Kevin is going to speak about after I stop
8 talking eventually, that we have put together a work
9 group implementation and the membership is broad. It
10 includes the Department of Health and Social
11 Services, Department of Corrections, AHFC,
12 representatives from the Municipalities, Juneau,
13 Anchorage.

14 Health are services are Medicaid folks, the
15 Governor's office, Elizabeth who is here, I think,
16 the Coalition on Housing and the Trust. And we're
17 really moving forward toward putting together an
18 implementation process with support from the
19 Technical Assistance Collaborative, technical
20 assistance. And I think we're going to be asking
21 this group to support our efforts and maybe have some
22 conversation about what that would look like for us.

23 And I'm going to let Kelda speak.

24 BARSTAD: Good afternoon. Many of the programs that Susan
25 was talking about involve a significant number of

1 partners both with the Department of Health and
2 Social Services across multiple divisions, as well as
3 with Alaska Housing Finance Corporation and other key
4 stakeholders in the community. And this model of
5 partnership to implement programs and serve some of
6 our most vulnerable populations has really been an
7 inspiring experience for me.

8 And along with the voucher programs that Susan had
9 mentioned and the 1115 project working on the
10 supportive housing plan, we also have been working
11 together on 811 voucher project. And we are almost
12 finished up with the contracts that has assessed our
13 general relief population which I'm very excited
14 about because I manage that program. And we don't
15 know a lot about the folks that we're serving because
16 it's primarily a benefit program, so we don't follow
17 them with case management.

18 So I'm looking forward to reporting more details
19 to the Council at the next meeting once we're able to
20 really record our data and learn who is participating
21 in this assisted living home benefit. And who is
22 interested in potentially moving out to either
23 independent housing or supportive housing or,
24 perhaps, would benefit from a more long term stable
25 source of funding versus the living home care.

1 And also on an update for the other waiver
2 programs that are in progress through the Division of
3 Senior and Disability Services, the last time I
4 reported the Department was looking into 1915I and
5 also 1915K.

6 And at this time the Department is not moving
7 forward with the 1915I primarily out of concerns of
8 not being able to maintain cost neutrality, but is
9 moving forward with the 1915K which would look to
10 refinance the Personal Care Assistance Program and
11 potentially add some other services to the community.

12 And for anyone that's interested in additional
13 details on the update on 1915K my director, Dwayne
14 Mays (ph) will be presenting on a webinar on October
15 19th from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. You can sign up at the
16 Senior and Disability Services website. And he also
17 will be going on a road show later on at the end of
18 this month through Southeast and presenting via video
19 conference.

20 He may be going to other parts of the State later,
21 but I do know that he's taking the show on the road
22 to give an update on this implementation plan, so
23 definitely stay connected to our website. It'll have
24 information on those presentations in Southeast
25 communities at the end of October and then a video

1 conference you'll be able to tap into in a variety of
2 locations. Thank you.

3 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you. And we'll put it on our website
4 as well,.....

5 BARSTAD: Great.

6 BUTCHER:so you can look (indiscernible - away from
7 microphone). Do we have any questions for Susan and
8 Kelda?

9 BURNS: Thank you both.

10 BUTCHER: Okay, thank you very much. Okay, Kevin Martone,
11 Alaska Supportive Housing Plan. Welcome.

12 MARTONE: Thank you. Hello, everybody. Thank you for
13 inviting me here to speak to you about the plan. My
14 name is Kevin Martone. I'm the Executive Director
15 for the Technical Assistance Collaborative in Boston.
16 And I just wanted to give you a little bit of an
17 update on Supportive Housing Plan that we had
18 presented to the Division and the Mental Health Trust
19 Authority about a year ago.

20 Brief history, in 2014, December of 2014 the
21 Division of Behavioral Health and the Mental Health
22 Trust Authority contracted with us to develop a
23 supportive housing plan and to present some
24 strategies to the State on how to create move
25 supportive housing opportunities.

1 We are -- in a nutshell, we are a non-profit
2 consulting firm. We do work across the country
3 helping system in behavioral health, addictions,
4 Medicaid, supportive housing, things like that. And
5 we've worked -- we worked in every state at this
6 point.

7 And we're also a HUD contractor and a VA
8 contractor and a CMS contractor delivering TA to
9 states as well. And so we were asked to come in and
10 bring that expertise to Alaska to help put together a
11 plan.

12 We spent the year from about January of 2015
13 through presenting the final report in December of
14 2015. Talked to you folks in Alaska. We came up
15 here several times. This is my fifth trip up here
16 now meeting with stakeholders, providers, folks who
17 are in the housing community. Folks who are in the
18 services community, the homeless community. We met
19 with service recipients and family members.

20 We visited Juneau. We've been in Anchorage
21 obviously. We visited Bethel. We've been down --
22 I've been down on the Kenai Peninsula to a couple of
23 communities to just really get the flavor of the
24 housing and homeless issues that are facing the
25 state.

1 You know, we took all of that, we took, you know,
2 the information that was available in the State and
3 presented a report of recommendations back to folks.
4 That report, if you don't have it is, I believe, up
5 on the Division of Behavioral Health's website, as
6 well as the Mental Health Trust Authority's website
7 to take a look at.

8 Let me first say, you know, when it comes to
9 addressing, you know, the supportive housing needs of
10 individuals who are homeless or have disabilities, I
11 think we can all agree that there's a need for more
12 housing and services, right. I mean, period.

13 Often times in states, states are challenged with
14 their fiscal environments and budgetary constraints
15 and, you know, we're spending a lot of time working
16 together and coordinating together and trying to come
17 up with strategies to maximize our housing and
18 services within constrained budgets.

19 And, you know, at the end of the day we -- I think
20 we all know that we need some additional resources to
21 meet those needs, but that said, you know, what we
22 have found is states can benefit from strategic
23 supportive housing plans like this to maximize the
24 availability of affordable housing and services that
25 they can produce in their systems.

1 You know, so it's -- sometimes it's maximizing
2 what you have and being more efficiency with what you
3 have on the housing and services side, but it may
4 also be, you know, if you get new resources into your
5 community like National Housing Trust Fund dollars or
6 811 dollars or new Medicaid dollars, for instance,
7 that you are, you know, producing those in the most
8 efficient way so that you can maximize your numbers
9 and that's really what we try to do in these
10 supportive housing plans.

11 In the supportive housing plan we approached it
12 trying to help the State come -- meet four
13 objectives. The first objective was to help the
14 State try to maximize the development of integrated,
15 affordable, leased based permanent supportive housing
16 primarily for folks with serious behavioral health
17 disorders at the time. Keep in mind we were
18 initially engaged it was by DBH and the Mental Health
19 Trust Authority and I'll get into that in a second.

20 The second objective was to help identify, develop
21 and implement the services that individuals need to
22 keep and stay in supportive housing.

23 The third objective was to coordinate efforts
24 among state and partner agencies working to develop
25 and ensure access to permanent supportive housing.

1 And the fourth objective was to leverage
2 additional Federal financial participation through
3 modifications to Medicaid services.

4 And we took those objectives and in the final
5 report there's seven over-arching goals or
6 recommendations. And within those seven over-arching
7 goals and recommendations we actually break those
8 down into, you know, 1a, 1b, you know, into finer
9 recommendations as well.

10 Those are all in the report and what I thought I
11 would do is just quickly hit the seven over-arching
12 recommendations so folks can get a flavor for it.

13 The first one was really to develop a policy
14 framework to guide implementation of permanent
15 supportive housing as an essential component of DBH
16 service system.

17 You know, one of the things that when you look in
18 behavioral health systems across the country there
19 has been an over- -- well, obviously many folks are
20 homeless in the systems and that's certainly an issue
21 across the states, but there often tends to be an
22 over-reliance on institutional care, transitional or
23 group care, board and care type of settings. Often
24 times in Alaska, I know, they're frequently known to
25 the assisted living homes.

1 And, I think, you know, what we try to do is work
2 with states to, sort of, help rebalance that and try
3 to put a little bit more of reliance on supportive
4 housing and shift that balance in systems. And that
5 was, you know, some of the strategies that we list in
6 there.

7 The second recommendation or goal was to establish
8 a coordinated and consistent approach to housing and
9 housing-related services across all DHSS divisions.

10 What we found and experienced in systems is if you
11 look at it from, you know, one divisional
12 perspective, for instance in this case Division of
13 Behavioral Health Services, it's, sort of,
14 perpetuates that silo approach to government in
15 developing services and housing options.

16 And what we found in systems is that to the extent
17 that you can coordinate those efforts across state
18 agencies, you know, within DHSS, for instance or even
19 more so across the other agencies like the Housing
20 Finance Corporation, Department of Corrections and
21 other agencies and can come up with consistent
22 supportive housing policy you're going to be better
23 off overall. You're going to maximize your dollars
24 and use 'em better.

25 The third goal was to -- that we came up with was

1 a recommendation to actually start to think about an
2 actual pipeline of affordable housing that the state
3 may be able to create.

4 Now, again, we know sometimes that requires new
5 resources, you know, and so things like that we talk
6 about in there are the use of 811 dollars, use of the
7 Trust Fund dollars, new Continuum of Care dollars
8 that would come into the state and how you can
9 maximize those. Sometimes just by tweaking some
10 things, you know, you can come up with a pipeline of
11 housing.

12 The overall strategic housing plan that we
13 presented is really a three year plan, but the
14 housing target that we presented is a five year plan
15 'cause we know that takes time.

16 If you look at the plan we did put a number in
17 there and it's, sort of, a range. And, you know,
18 again, this is something for you guys to think about,
19 it's a road map. It's a series of recommendations
20 and it's based upon several assumptions at the time
21 from information that we had.

22 And what I would encourage you to do is, sort of,
23 not necessarily lock into the number that we put into
24 the report, but look at the strategies that we put in
25 there to then try to adapt and incorporate what's

1 actually happening on the ground for you in Alaska
2 and really take that and develop your own pipeline
3 based upon those strategies that we present.

4 The fourth goal is -- that we recommended was to
5 establish a supportive housing clearinghouse to
6 coordinate the timely referral of eligible households
7 for PSH.

8 Similar to what's going on with the coordinated
9 entry level at the local level, you know, a lot of
10 these resources are often administered at the state
11 level for people who sometimes may not necessarily be
12 involved in the homeless system. People with
13 disabilities who may be coming out of institutional
14 settings and things like that and it's a similar
15 concept. And, in fact, what you want to do is make
16 sure that you're coordinating access into those
17 housing opportunities as efficiently as you can.

18 Bottom line is a housing developer or operator
19 does not want to have to wait three months for all to
20 fill up (ph) a unit. And to the extent that at the
21 state level that can be coordinated better, the more
22 success you're going to have and at certainly the
23 state level coordinating with the coordinated entry
24 level.

25 The fifth goal was to establish a funding source

1 for services delivered in supportive housing that is
2 sustainable and tailored to the needs of individuals,
3 right. Along with affordable housing, obviously we
4 need the right types of services and access to the
5 services so that people can succeed in the community.
6 We really had some recommendations there for that.

7 Part of that is also maximizing Federal financial
8 participation. At the time when we were talking
9 about this there was not a decision in the State to
10 do Medicaid reform and expansion and we had made some
11 recommendations in the report that if you want to
12 maximize your resources and be able to cover some
13 services and cover some evidence based practiced
14 services that maybe were newly being implemented in
15 the system, like, a sort of community treatment that
16 Medicaid expansion could create opportunities in that
17 area.

18 Subsequent to the report, obviously, the Governor
19 is moving forward Medicaid expansion. There's a lot
20 of work going on in the Department on Medicaid
21 expansion. I was actually up here in August with the
22 National Governor's Association working with the
23 state agencies on that. Behavioral Health is doing
24 the 1115, so there's a lot of opportunity in that.

25 At the same time recognizing there's a lot of

1 budget constraints, but there's a lot of opportunity.

2 And the last recommendation we have in there was
3 that to expand service delivery in home and community
4 based settings to promote housing stability and
5 community integration. Actually this wasn't, this is
6 the sixth. Is to, sort of, rebalance that approach
7 to services, right.

8 Supportive housing is a model that works. You
9 want to be able to have the resources and the
10 services go to people in their homes in the community
11 based settings rather than have -- be facility based.
12 That's just an evidence based practice model and we
13 make suggestions in there on that.

14 And the last recommendation is to strengthen
15 community provider workforce capacity. You guys know
16 better than I the work force challenges that you have
17 in your system. Every state has them. They're
18 really acute. We offer some suggestions in there.

19 One of the things we do offer in there, too, and
20 this does fit in with as you begin to cover
21 particular services with Medicaid, is to develop
22 supportive housing training curriculum so that
23 providers out there who will be delivering supportive
24 housing services have a consistent training
25 curriculum to work from. It can also serve as an

1 eligibility platform for those providers to be able
2 to bill Medicaid services.

3 And so I think, you know, in a nutshell, you know,
4 at the end of the day Susan talked about, you know, a
5 work group to help implement the plan and things like
6 that. If supportive housing is a platform that is
7 seen as a common intervention across different policy
8 priority areas in the system and leadership makes it
9 something that, you know, you're staff are going to
10 really, sort of, buy into and work from and, you
11 know, spend time and energy on, you're going to make
12 progress in this.

13 States that have really taken a, you know,
14 leadership role in this area, spent the time and
15 energy committed to it, committed to it across state
16 agencies are going to make progress. It fits into
17 everything that you're doing with Medicaid reform and
18 all those things and it's just a great opportunity
19 for you to, sort of, take a plan like this and
20 leverage it into everything that you're doing.

21 This isn't -- the report's not the be all and end
22 all, but to use it as a guide to leverage into
23 everything that you're doing and I think you can make
24 some success.

25 And I'm certainly willing to take any questions if

1 anybody has any.

2 BUTCHER: Thank you. Does anybody have any questions for
3 Kevin? Dave.

4 KUIPER: My question is who is being asked to accept these
5 recommendations, is it the Council that's being asked
6 to accept these recommendations?

7 BUTCHER: It's my understanding, and maybe somebody can
8 elaborate, that we've discussed having a work group,
9 but a good example is AHFC is included in part of
10 this, but we really haven't dug down between the
11 agencies to say okay, this is available or this isn't
12 or if we did do this, here's what we can't do, that
13 kind of thing. So there needs to be, I think, more
14 collaboration between agencies, but I don't know
15 exactly what the specific ask is at this point.

16 BURNS: Well, I think that ask is that we essentially
17 agree that moving forward that as mostly
18 representatives of the public and the state agencies
19 that we support, at least, the work group.

20 I was going to suggest that we -- the work group
21 is meeting. That at the next meeting we come back
22 with specific recommendations for actions that this
23 group would take in support of adopting these goals.

24 BUTCHER: Yeah, and I would agree with that. I mean, we are
25 very -- very much behind sitting together with the

1 work group and working forward on this.

2 KUIPER: And then my -- I guess, it sounds like, Randall,
3 like you've done quite a bit of work with this. Has
4 there been a cross (indiscernible) done between this
5 housing -- the housing plan goals here and the plan
6 that we as a Council adopted?

7 BURNS: I think they have been working on that, as well as
8 the goals from the Governor's Summit, so they have
9 been looking at all of those and we can bring that to
10 you so that you can see that, where they are.

11 KUIPER: Who are -- who are they?

12 BURNS: This is the work group. This is people who are on
13 my staff, people and staff from AHFC, from the Trust,
14 from other agencies and they've been working on this.
15 This report was published a year ago and we've been
16 working up to this point trying to get to the point
17 where we can actually decide that we think this makes
18 sense for us.

19 KUIPER: Okay.

20 BUTCHER: Okay.

21 WILLIAMS: So let me -- maybe this comes under (indiscernible
22 - away from microphone) make comments later, but I
23 guess, I'd like to underscore what I see as one of
24 the major recommendations that just jumps out to me
25 that really, I think, lays other groundwork.

1 I mean, I have a lot of other moving pieces in the
2 Department that I am now responsible for, but there's
3 a lot of money that different State agencies are
4 putting to this effort and really getting under the
5 same tent and really the same direction. So your
6 number one recommendation, like, everybody get on the
7 same page and that policy must drive where the
8 dollars go, not the other way around. And that
9 sounds like a simple thing to do, but my God is that
10 complicated.

11 And so that one thing alone, if we figured out
12 amongst us and amongst the -- I mean, we have three
13 departments here that are represented and I know what
14 kind of money my Department is spending on this sort
15 of effort and it seems to me that I really want --
16 what I need -- I think we've lost half the group
17 here, but I need this group of people to say here's
18 the -- to get in front of all of us to say your money
19 is best spent here, not so much here and all of you
20 spend all your entire lives working on solutions for
21 this.

22 And so the one -- I mean, it just jumps out to me
23 in a big huge way that if we did that one thing alone
24 and said we're going to decide on policies because I
25 have some thoughts about this about where I can see

1 some leverage points and oh, by the way I am -- my
2 whole job right now is to realign money from my
3 department. And part of this is that people getting
4 out of prison become homeless, become -- back to
5 become prisoners again, become homeless again, become
6 prisoners again, there's a clue here for us.

7 And so I just want to underscore that I really
8 appreciate the report. That one thing alone is a big
9 one in terms of having three Departments represented
10 here and about -- as well as AHFC, of course, who has
11 been a big funder and, you know, pushing a lot of
12 this.

13 The rest of us need to -- I'm saying this to me,
14 hands up, me, I'm the first one, I need to get on
15 board to see what the policy is because I do have
16 some thoughts about that and I need to realign my
17 resources to make sure that I'm in line with the
18 policies.

19 MARTONE: That's the big take away. And, you know, I was a
20 Mental Health Commissioner in Jersey for several
21 years and, you know, we think about housing, you
22 know, being an issue for all these different state
23 agencies and all the work that's on your plate on a
24 daily basis and all the priorities and everything
25 like that, but if there's leadership buy-in the

1 policy flows through that down to the work group and
2 you can develop that consistent approach. And I
3 think, you know, if that happens, you can really go a
4 long way with this.

5 And I think, you know, it's -- I mean, I had the
6 opportunity to meet Elizabeth Schultz. She was at
7 the meeting that we had the other day from the
8 Governor's office, having the Governor's office
9 involvement is terrific. You don't see that in
10 states, that helps to push things along as well, so
11 thank you.

12 SCHULTZ: I was just going to say (ph).....

13 COLLINS: Sorry, Elizabeth,.....

14 SCHULTZ:(indiscernible - away from microphone).....

15 COLLINS: Sorry, can you just come up to the mic, they can't
16 hear you on TV if you don't speak into that
17 (indiscernible).....

18 SCHULTZ: Since the Governor's Housing Summit report was
19 mentioned, I do want to also say, I've been listening
20 to so many of these meetings and if you go into the
21 Housing Summit recommendations under Alaskans
22 experiencing homelessness the first two
23 recommendations are to either create a new position
24 that's going to coordinate everything which as we all
25 know that's not happening in State government right

1 now or to empower the Council to do that to be the
2 overseer of how to push some of these plans through.

3 And the second recommendation was to coordinate
4 the funding. And so I really think it does end up
5 being the role of this body to figure out what do we
6 do. Do we work into work groups. Do we have task
7 forces. Do we meet separately then twice a year and
8 say if we're going to do permanent supportive housing
9 or even any form of coordinated funding, coordinated
10 housing who do we designate and how do we do that.

11 And since I'm just up here I want to say, Randall,
12 I appreciate so much your department's lead on this.
13 I think having the Department of Behavioral Health
14 saying we're going to look at housing as part of
15 Behavioral Health is just tremendous and is going to
16 be incredible in this state, but I really do think
17 from my limited work in this and my witnessing how
18 this Council is working, finding a way for this
19 Council to say to say do we need to have a separate
20 group that comes from this Council that takes this
21 on, that would be my recommendation from what I've
22 heard.

23 BUTCHER: Do we have any other further questions, comments?

24 Okay. Thank you.

25 UNIDENTIFIED: Thanks.

1 BUTCHER: Thanks, Elizabeth. Okay. We will move onto
2 Alaska's Plan to End Long Term Homelessness, Suzi and
3 Dave.

4 KUIPER: So I'm going to introduce this section and Suzi is
5 going to highlight some areas. I want to thank
6 Carrie for really doing the lion's share of the real
7 heavy lifting and all the preparation in the report
8 that you received today, but I'd like to -- you know,
9 it's just been one year since we approved this plan.
10 And when we approved it we said, gosh, how are we
11 going to know if we're doing anything.

12 And so at our last Council meeting we reported on
13 an attempt to reach into our communities throughout
14 Alaska to understand what is in place and then
15 understand some of the gaps by reaching out to the
16 Alaska Municipal League and the communities around
17 our state and we got some data back. And just really
18 want to acknowledge the help that we received through
19 those folks and their efforts to respond to our
20 survey.

21 Well, so we're a year in and we wondered if we had
22 accomplished anything and we enlisted the key
23 partners, the central partners for each of the five
24 priorities that our plan lays out and asked them to
25 ask the lead partners and supporting partners within

1 their categories to report. And holy smokes, a lot
2 has been happening in the last year.

3 So just want to thank everybody for the really
4 hard work that is going on to make it possible for --
5 or at least closer to our goal of making it possible
6 for every family in our State and every individual in
7 the family to have safe, affordable housing in our
8 State of Alaska.

9 So thank you for your participation. And I'll let
10 Suzi give us some of the highlights.

11 PEARSON: We're almost done, right. I almost want to ask
12 for a stretch break, but that might take us.....

13 UNIDENTIFIED: That will take too long.

14 PEARSON: It'll take us too long, yeah. So with this plan
15 truly a lot of work was put into this by Council
16 Members to ensure that we were trying to recognize
17 all the different areas that need to be addressed in
18 the issues of homelessness. And with this, this was
19 really about gathering information from the local
20 communities, not about us telling a community what
21 they needed to do. This is about a community finding
22 what they need and telling us what's going on.

23 And with that we -- I really -- Dave and I both
24 were shocked and I think Carrie, the amount of
25 information we got back and specifically from our

1 partners who are on the Council. We got a lot of
2 feedback from folks in the different State
3 Departments and that's really what drove this report
4 and shows all accomplishments, as well as the State
5 Coalition and the Anchorage Coalition.

6 So I really don't -- you have this in your packet.
7 I don't want to necessarily read it all to you, but I
8 think that it's really important to recognize the
9 collaborations that are in here. There's a lot of
10 work between AHFC and many other departments.

11 I was really please as far as when you look at the
12 first one around expanding housing, the communities.
13 There were six communities that they went into and I
14 think that we're talking about a statewide plan, not
15 just Anchorage as a major hub.

16 And we talked a lot about drawing in landlords and
17 the work that needs to happen with Fair Housing as
18 far as outreach and engagement. And we've seen a lot
19 of great activity on that front, so I think that's
20 pretty fabulous.

21 Different communities inviting landlords in,
22 recognizing them, doing appreciations and I know so
23 many organizations do that individually, but we're
24 seeing a little bit more of a collective effort to
25 engage the people that are housing our folks to help

1 them better understand how we can be effective
2 partners and making people successful.

3 And I really do want to thank everyone who
4 responded to our questions and sent in all these
5 accomplishments. I really thank you for all the work
6 that you do to make this possible. You did this and
7 the next five years we're just going to see more
8 growth in development, more opportunities and, I
9 think, that's a really wonderful thing, so thanks for
10 supporting the plan and getting your stats (ph) to
11 us.

12 BUTCHER: Yeah. And I'd like to thank Suzi and Dave. I
13 mean, this is -- the development of it and the work
14 into it. There's a lot of things that go on in
15 between the meetings that we have and this is what
16 you see and this is a lot of it. It's a living
17 document. It's going to change. It's evolved today
18 from what it was a year ago and we're going to see it
19 a year from now not looking just like we're looking
20 at it today, so thank you very much.

21 BURNS: Well, I -- and since I'm, sort of, new to the
22 group, I spent last night and this morning reading.
23 I thought the original plan that came out last -- in
24 2015 was really good and it gives you all of the
25 background that you need if you're just trying to

1 understand, sort of, where you all have, you know,
2 started and where we are. And then the update was
3 also, as you said, pretty amazing, so I appreciated
4 the information. I think it's great.

5 KUIPER: Well, we appreciate the fresh eyes and the
6 compliment, so thank you.

7 I did want to just mention one, kind of, next step
8 that we are undertaking. The Alaska Municipal League
9 Annual Local Government Conference is on November 16
10 and 17 at the Captain Cook Hotel here in town. And
11 our plan committee which is the three of us, we're
12 going to have a booth.....

13 COLLINS: And a presentation.

14 KUIPER: And a presentation to the Municipal League members
15 to let them know about the plan and then continue to
16 get this -- keep this interaction going between those
17 Municipal leaders that come in for the conference and
18 our Council so that we can continue to get fresh
19 information. And also then feed that information
20 back into the plan and see where we can respond to
21 the needs as we understand them better, so that's the
22 16th and 17th. And give one person a big --and give
23 Betty.....

24 PEARSON: Betty.....

25 KUIPER: Yeah, give Betty a big call out.

1 PEARSON: Betty represents the Municipal League on the
2 Council and I do think -- thank you for mentioning
3 that because this is part of the engagement with the
4 State that we need to talk about. And the city
5 governments, all these little municipalities
6 throughout the State don't know anything about
7 homelessness, don't know if they might have a problem
8 and we are -- this is our chance. We're getting in
9 their face and saying here, talk to me and so this is
10 a really important step for us and I'm really excited
11 about it.

12 BUTCHER: Okay.

13 KUIPER: Thank you.

14 BUTCHER: Do we have any other questions or comments? All
15 right, thank you very much.

16 Now we are in wrap-up to Council Member Reports.
17 Why don't we go around the table one by one and if
18 you have something you'd like to add or comment,
19 please do. (Indiscernible) okay. Commissioner.

20 WILLIAMS: No, I just -- we can't -- I don't want this to get
21 away from us. And if -- I really am listening to
22 Elizabeth's comments and I guess it, kind of, moves
23 me that I'm looking to get into this very deeply, not
24 just as an ancillary issue, but this really directly
25 relates to a lot of issues that we're facing in the

1 State with our high recidivism rate in the prison
2 population.

3 And I think there's direct benefit to what we're
4 doing on the justice front. We just passed a huge
5 crime omnibus bill, that's all good, really good, but
6 it's these sort of efforts and I've had enough
7 experience when we -- in some other areas where I
8 have seen you really do get the main -- the really
9 movers in the room to say what are we doing about
10 that.

11 You can make ground much faster than you can when
12 you have, sort of, meeting every few months and so
13 I'm willing to really invest in this because I think
14 this is really directly related.

15 How we handle this piece is really going to impact
16 on our recidivism rate and re-entry effort, the job
17 training, the housing, all those pieces together.
18 And we each own some of that a little bit
19 differently, more some areas than others.

20 And so I really think we have to be with each
21 other, right, and get real honest about where money
22 has been spent, what we're getting for it and
23 sometimes that gets a little bit gnarly, but I think
24 we have to commit ourselves to that otherwise we're
25 just -- we just can't -- I just want to meet every

1 --I say this with great love, I don't want to meet
2 every few months without us having a real like, okay,
3 we've got a toe hold now. We're now committed to
4 realizing that maybe the way we're spending money --
5 and I sat -- I'm throwing my hand up.

6 By the way, not for nothing, I just cut \$3 million
7 out of our halfway house model because there was
8 waste there. And people in the halfway houses --
9 plus I invest -- I inherited a very troubled halfway
10 house model. Those halfway house individual are the
11 next homeless people -- are the next homeless people
12 in many occasions, so that's how it all relates to
13 me.

14 So selfishly I have a lot to gain by us really
15 struggling and making sure that we really have set
16 the policy issues and then we go challenge each other
17 about how the money is following --, whether or not
18 the money is really following that policy issue. And
19 I'm the first one to say I'm looking and making
20 changes. I have already.

21 There's some little grass root things I'm already
22 starting to see. One of my old favorite places
23 downtown soup kitchen is about job training and
24 things like that, I love hearing things like that. I
25 need to figure out as a system how we spend effort

1 and money in those area because I think that's where
2 the data says you make the turn and so not for
3 nothing.

4 I'm in. I want to do more in this area and if it
5 means coming back here from Juneau to do it, I'll do
6 it. I think it's that important.

7 BUTCHER: Yeah. And to follow that, I think that's where
8 the workshops occur between our meetings to get the
9 stuff done. Like I said, you don't see us sitting
10 here hashing out everything. You see us sitting here
11 going over what's been hashed out and brought in
12 front of us.

13 WILLIAMS: Bryan, I actually agree with you. I just --
14 sometimes it's our staff though and I'm guilty of
15 this, right. I, kind of, give them general, sort of
16 like, go there, but sometimes they really need from
17 me. Like I said, this is my -- they need, like --
18 they need to just -- you know, is that important.
19 Can I really do that, yes or no and sometimes I have
20 to be there.

21 So I don't -- believe me, I don't want any more
22 meetings, but sometimes I really know that they're
23 looking for me to say you're at the tip of the spear
24 buddy and I need to set that for them, so I'm laying
25 that on me, not anybody else, I'm just saying.

1 BUTCHER: But having the decision makers be part of it,.....

2 WILLIAMS: Right (ph).

3 BUTCHER:as opposed to just having to work up through

4 levels of staff and hoping that.....

5 WILLIAMS: Right, (simultaneous speech).....

6 BUTCHER:something comes of it (ph).

7 WILLIAMS: Exactly right, Bryan.

8 BUTCHER: Okay, all right. Randall.

9 BURNS: I was just going to say, I do think -- I'll commit

10 that the working group, the meeting on the seven

11 goals, we'll take a look and align it with the

12 Council's plan as well and just, sort of, indicate

13 where they speak the same language when they address

14 those same topics and where they don't and we'll do

15 that by the next meeting.

16 BUTCHER: Dave.

17 KUIPER: Thank you, Randall, I appreciate that very much.

18 I guess I would like to echo the, I guess,

19 sentiments that work groups are invaluable to the

20 work of this Council and the movement forward.

21 I know I'm busy, everyone of us has day jobs that

22 some of get -- this includes a part of our day job,

23 so whatever it's going to take to move some of this

24 stuff up to a policy level, where policy level

25 changes need to be made and recommendations on both

1 in and out of the Governor's office and then
2 Legislative kinds of messages that need to be
3 delivered.

4 It's very interesting, SB-91 is touted here in the
5 last couple of days as a wonderful thing. I heard it
6 time and time again, but last night when I watched
7 one of the evening news presentations there was a
8 panel of perspective Legislators all bad mouthing it.
9 And so there's a dissonance there that we'd really
10 have to, kind of, figure. How to bridge the gap
11 between either it's misunderstanding or
12 misinformation or something, there's a gap.

13 Then there's always going to be political
14 differences around the way people see it, but when a
15 whole -- when one group says one thing and we have
16 another -- this largely as I heard it in this group
17 of workers, it seems -- it's viewed as a good thing.

18 So there's a gap, but somehow we have to bridge
19 that gap better than we have. So however we can do
20 that, I'm in, so I'll help if I can. I'm done.

21 PEARSON: Yeah.

22 KUIPER: I'm all done talking with my hands.

23 PEARSON: Okay. You didn't hit me.

24 BUTCHER: Suzi.

25 PEARSON: No, I do. I just want to, you know, continue my

1 thanks to everybody here and especially to Carrie
2 'cause she does an incredible job keeping Dave and I
3 on line and with all the work that we've been doing,
4 so thanks.

5 BUTCHER: Jeff.

6 JESSEE: Even though the trustees have identified both
7 Medicaid reform and criminal justice reform as their
8 two over-arching priorities and housing is absolutely
9 essential to both of them and we look forward to keep
10 working with the team.

11 And I echo Commissioner Williams, we've got to get
12 on with it. We don't have any time to waste.

13 BUTCHER: Yeah. And I'll just follow-up by saying the same
14 thing. And it's almost, kind of, a two leveled issue
15 where the first level is the policy.

16 Council's like this Council, coming together and
17 trying to determine what makes the most sense, but
18 the whole other level is the level that involves
19 funding, that involved the DHSS, you know,
20 responsibilities with their funding and DOC and our
21 Board at AHFC and your Board and so it's a
22 conversation going on, on both sides. And if one of
23 the two sides doesn't line up, it doesn't work.

24 So I just wanted to point out that, you know,
25 there's a lot of moving parts and pieces on this and

1 it just, kind of, emphasizes how much more work
2 probably has to be planned to have been done to
3 succeed.

4 Okay. If there's nothing else to come before the
5 Council -- oh, sure.

6 CARLSON: Sorry for speaking again, but thank you all for
7 the work that you are doing and talking about this.
8 I just really -- in sitting and listening to this and
9 other meetings that I've participated in this week
10 and actually over the last couple of years, I really
11 feel very compelled to say that it feels very
12 Anchorage heavy.

13 And that's not necessarily a bad thing because the
14 work that Anchorage is doing is fantastic, but being
15 from Fairbanks, from one of the balance of state
16 communities I've had to invite myself and bring my
17 own chair to many of these meetings and it does
18 concern me.

19 You know, when you said, you know, you need to
20 hear our voices, I feel like some funding decisions
21 are made without, you know, the needs of some of our
22 rural communities. Even I think we're considered
23 urban and when you talk about our services, I don't
24 know that urban is really the best word, but then
25 there's rural communities who don't have any

1 services.

2 The needs of our communities are so very different
3 that I think it's really important that our voices
4 are also a part of your work groups and your
5 committees and your presentations before you today
6 and your other meetings because it often feels like
7 the balance of state communities get, kind of,
8 forgotten about because there's so much momentum
9 happening in Anchorage, but that momentum is also
10 happening in other communities and with a little bit
11 of support, not even necessarily financial, I think
12 that momentum would build very quickly and rapidly.

13 So I just wanted to -- I felt very compelled to
14 say that. Thank you.

15 BUTCHER: Thank you, we appreciate that. That's something
16 we always take into consideration as we look through
17 everything that we do. I mean, we certainly
18 understand the challenges in rural.

19 To give you an example, the recidivism that we
20 work with the Department of Corrections on, the re-
21 entry that comes in, until this year it existed
22 everywhere but Anchorage. Anchorage was actually the
23 excluded community, so -- but we do pay attention to
24 everything on there and thank you very much for
25 bringing that up.

1 Okay. With that being said, we are adjourned.

2 Thank you.

3 (Adjourned - 4:00 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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STATE OF ALASKA

I, Suzan K. Olson, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska, residing at Anchorage, Alaska, and Electronic Reporter do hereby certify:

THAT the annexed and foregoing PUBLIC MEETING of the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation regarding **ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS**, was taken before Suzan Olson on the 12th day of October, 2016, commencing at the hour of 1:30 o'clock p.m., at the at the Marriott Downtown, Anchorage, Alaska, pursuant to Notice;

THAT this Transcript, as heretofore annexed, is a true and correct transcription of said Public Meeting, thereafter transcribed by Suzan Olson;

THAT the original of the Transcript will be lodged with the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation;

THAT I am not a relative, employee or attorney of any of the parties, nor am I financially interested in this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 10th day of January, 2017.

Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 08/13/19

ALASKA COUNCIL ON THE HOMELESS
PUBLIC MEETING 10/12/16

Alaska
Housing
FINANCE CORPORATION